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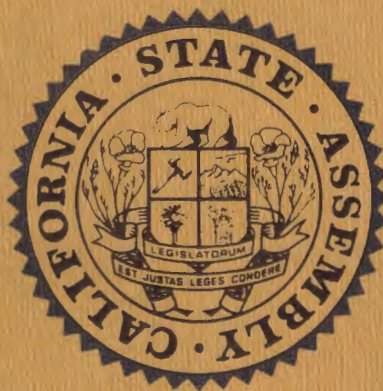
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PRESS ★

REVIEW OF THE CALIFORNIA ECOLOGY CORPS

**HEARING
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON
EFFICIENCY
AND
COST CONTROL**



**ECC 72-7
June 23, 1972**

CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY

COMMITTEE ON EFFICIENCY
and
COST CONTROL

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ASSEMBLYMAN ERNEST MOBLEY, VICE CHAIRMAN

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JAN SHARPLESS, ASSOCIATE CONSULTANT

DEAN CROMWELL, LEGISLATIVE INTERN

MARGARET CUMMINGS, COMMITTEE SECRETARY

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Assembly Committee on Efficiency and Cost Control shall exercise general legislative oversight in order to determine the extent to which programs, policies and actions of government fall within and adhere to the expressed intent of the Legislature, including but not limited to the:

- I. Determination of programs which duplicate or overlap other programs in existence; the
- II. Determination of programs which no longer fulfill an intended or necessary need; the
- III. Determination of agencies which are conducting programs or functions not within the intent of the Legislature; and the
- IV. Determination of agencies failing to conduct programs or functions intended by the Legislature.

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

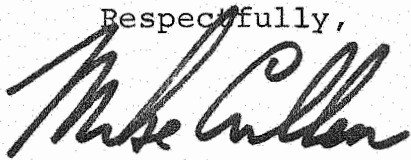
State Capitol
Sacramento, California
June 23, 1972

The Honorable Robert Moretti
Speaker of the California Assembly
State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Efficiency and Cost Control hereby transmits its hearing record supporting the findings and recommendations concerning the California Ecology Corps report which we submitted to you on June 7th.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mike Cullen", written in a cursive style.

MIKE CULLEN
Chairman

CONTENTS

Hearing on Tuesday, April 4, 1972	Page 1
Statement of Stearns, James, Director, Department of Conservation, Accompanied by Mr. Joe Griggs, Administrator of the California Ecology Corps, and Mr. William Haussler, Assistant Chief of Operations, Department of Parks and Recreation	2
McKay, Paul, Corpsman, Inyo Ecology Center, Accompanied by Mr. Nathaniel Stone, Corpsman, Humboldt Ecology Center, and Mr. Timothy White, Corpsman, on Assign- ment to the Department of Conservation	35
McCann, Major William D., Chief, Alternate Service Program, California Headquarters, Selective Service System, Accompanied by Mr. James Stearns, Director, Department of Conservation, and Mr. Joe Griggs, Admin- istrator of the California Ecology Corps	72

APPENDICES

Appendix A -- Statement of James G. Stearns, Director, Department of Conservation	109
Appendix B -- Statement of William Penn Mott, Jr., Depart- ment of Parks and Recreation.	131
Appendix C -- Statement of Nathaniel Stone, Corpsman, Humboldt Ecology Center	133
Appendix D -- Statement of Paul McKay, Corpsman, Inyo Ecology Center, presenting a petition signed by members of Inyo Ecology Center	138
Appendix E -- Report on Problem Areas in the Ecology Corps, Timothy White, Corpsman, on assignment to the Department of Conservation	147
Appendix F -- Selective Service Regulations which pertain to the Administration of the Alternate Service Program for conscientious objectors, provided by Major William McCann, Chief, Alternate Service Program, California Headquarters, Selective Service System	160
Appendix G -- Statement of Dr. F. Duane Blume, Assistant Director, White Mountain Research Station, Bishop, California	175

Appendix H -- Statement of Grant A. Morse, Assistant
Regional Forester, Division of Information and Education,
Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture,
San Francisco 177

Appendix I -- Memorandum to the Chief Park Ranger, Sequoia
and Kings Canyon National Parks, from John P. Bowdler,
Fire Control Officer, regarding the California Ecology
Corps, Ash Mountain 178

Appendix J -- Letters from James Stearns, Director of the
Department of Conservation, to Assemblyman Mike Cullen,
Chairman of the Assembly Committee on Efficiency and Cost
Control, regarding cost to state of paying the corpsmen a
minimum wage. 180

STATEMENTS, LETTERS, ETC., SUBMITTED

Committee Members: Letters and response

Honorable Bob Wilson, Assemblyman
Letter to Joe Griggs, Administrator, California Ecology
Corps, dated April 6, 1972 183

James G. Stearns, Director, Department of Conservation,
Letter to Hon. Bob Wilson, responding to questions
asked in his letter of April 6, 1972, dated
April 18, 1972 185

Honorable Mike Cullen, Chairman of the Assembly Committee
on Efficiency and Cost Control,
Letter to James G. Stearns, Director, Department of
Conservation, dated April 19, 1972 188

James G. Stearns, Director, Department of Conservation,
Letter to Hon. Mike Cullen, responding to questions
asked in his letter of April 19, 1972, dated
April 26, 1972 190

Honorable Mike Cullen, Chairman of the Assembly Committee
on Efficiency and Cost Control,
Letter to James G. Stearns, Director, Department of
Conservation, dated April 20, 1972 198

James G. Stearns, Director, Department of Conservation,
Letter to Hon. Mike Cullen, responding to questions
asked in his letter of April 20, 1972, dated
May 1, 1972 200

Griggs, Joe, Administrator, California Ecology Corps,
Enclosure to prospective applicants to the California
Ecology Corps 205

Memorandum to Ecology Center Directors concerning a pay
raise for corpsmen, dated January 10, 1972 206

McFadden, Dave, Field Secretary, Western Regional Office,
Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors,
statement to the Senate Finance Committee, dated May 15,
1972 207

Tuesday, April 4, 1972

The Committee met at 1:45 in Room 6028, State Capitol, Chairman Cullen presiding.

Present: Assemblymen Mike Cullen, Ernest Mobley, Raymond Seeley, Vincent Thomas, and Bob Wilson.

Staff Present: John W. Billett, Senior Consultant, Jan Sharpless, Associate Consultant, and Dean Cromwell, Staff.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: The Chair would like to welcome Bob Wilson of San Diego, newly assigned to this committee. I'm not sure whether you'll find the committee work interesting. We take more testimony than some of the members would prefer.

ASSEMBLYMAN MOBLEY: That's right.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: And our decisions don't always come out every month or so, but it's a different committee than the others or to what you have become used to.

ASSEMBLYMAN WILSON: With a lawyer on here you are liable to get more testimony.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Right. Good afternoon. Today the committee will conduct hearings on the operation of the California Ecology Corps.

In announcing the hearing on March 21, I mentioned that charges had been brought to our attention that the Ecology Corps had not perhaps fulfilled the public purposes for which it was created. The purpose of this review is to provide a public forum for consideration of those critical charges and to compile some reliable

data upon which we can assess the progress or the necessity of the continuance of the California Ecology Corps.

One of the charges of this committee in reviewing various government agencies and programs, some 250 government departments and some 2500 programs, is to ascertain whether the programs are functioning in accordance with legislative intent; whether they are duplicating other programs in state government or in the private sector; and whether or not there's any legislative authority whatsoever.

So often in government programs a department will get started on a shoestring and before anyone realizes it they have several hundred employees. And it's very difficult to stamp out that type of creature, which tends to perpetuate even though the original need may long since have vanished.

At my direction, two members of the staff of this committee visited the Ecology Corps Centers in Paynes Creek and in Weott last week. This hearing will hopefully provide a combination of the information gathered at those visits, and a basis on which reasonable, sound recommendations can be made. The reports and recommendations of the committee should be published within 30 days and transmitted to the two finance committees and to the budget conference committee for their consideration in completing the structure of the budget.

At this time, may I ask Director Stearns, Mr. Griggs, the Administrator of the Ecology Corps, Mr. Haussler, from the Department of Parks and Recreation, and is Mr. Smith in the audience?

APPEARANCE OF MR. JAMES STEARNS, DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION, ACCOMPANIED BY MR. JOE GRIGGS, ADMINISTRATOR OF THE CALIFORNIA ECOLOGY CORPS, AND MR. WILLIAM HAUSSLER, ASSISTANT CHIEF OF OPERATIONS, DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION.

Gentlemen, as you can see, we use an attractive reporter who requires that you identify yourself and spell your name the first time out. Occasionally should you speak too rapidly, as one is want to do from reading from a prepared statement, she'll either say something or raise her hand and ask you to slow down. I don't think it will be an inconvenience. It's worked out very well so far.

Is there any objection among the members of the committee to the news media taking pictures or recording?

Permission will be granted for that.

Director Stearns.

MR. JAMES STEARNS: Mr. Chairman, I am James Stearns. I am Director of the Department of Conservation. I do have a prepared statement that the reporter can use. I'll confine my initial remarks very close to the text of it. (Appendix A)

I would ask permission to go through it completely because it's designed to pretty much set the tune as far as chronological events that lead up to this hearing. And with your permission I'll be as fast as I can and if the reporter gets behind, our text will be available to her.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: All right. In the event you deviate, let the girl know you are deviating and we'll incorporate the printed statement.

MR. STEARNS: In this instance I'll promise not to.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Go ahead.

MR. STEARNS: The Department welcomes the opportunity to give a thorough review of the chronology of --

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: There are many people here that will be interested in what you have to say.

MR. STEARNS: If you have the time.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: We'll take the time. Okay.

MR. STEARNS: That's a problem I've had all my life.

The California Ecology Corps is the solution Governor Reagan has adopted to meet California's continuing need for a reserve of trained manpower to confront the ravages of wildland fire and to meet this state's commitment for preserving the environment.

The Corps was officially established in an executive order (Attachment A of Appendix A) issued by Governor Reagan on April 27, 1971. That event marked the beginning of the Corps as a legal entity, but it was by no means the first step.

To find the first step we must go back in time more than 20 years ago when California's conservation camp program was inaugurated and even before that, back many decades to the days when state and county fire wardens conscripted citizens off the street or out of a sawmill to fight forest fires. In the intervening years, science has produced modern methods of fire control and fire suppression, but these new tools have not eliminated the need for trained manpower is organized crews.

Over the years, the Division of Forestry, the state's wild land fire fighting force, has, of necessity, increased in efficiency and in manpower. Today, some 3,000 men, whose job it is to meet the challenges of the wildland fires, are on the state's payroll. This force is augmented each summer by 1800 young men who are employed as seasonal fire fighters. Together, they man the fire stations,

bulldozer crews, and air bases that are three of the basic components available to us for wildland fire fighting.

In the late 1940's the need for trained hand crews became evident to the state's professional wildland fire fighters as the fourth component. In cooperation with the State Department of Corrections and the California Youth Authority, the conservation camp program became a reality and was formally organized.

This program enabled foresters to utilize minimum security inmates as fire fighting hand crews and to assist in the construction of our fire defense system, working out of a new camp environment in the state's forest lands. Working with the leadership of forestry personnel, the inmates have proven to be a tremendous asset.

And then came social changes -- and new concepts in penology and dealing with prison inmates. A new probation subsidy program was initiated in 1966, providing for payment to the counties on a per case basis so that county probation staffs could be beefed up and the less serious felons who formally ended up in conservation camps could be dealt with at home.

Since the probation subsidy program started in 1966, the prison population, of course, the camp population, began to decrease rather rapidly. In recent years, the prison population had dropped from 28,800 to under 20,000, as of this week.

A study was conducted in 1970-71 to find the alternative manpower sources necessary to replace the dwindling camp population. A partial solution was to contract with counties to use local prisoners to provide the manpower. San Diego County now supplies manpower for

two camps; another camp will soon be manned by county prisoners from Shasta and four other Northern California counties.

As this narration indicates, the Department of Conservation was faced with a problem, and with an obligation to find broader solutions.

California Ecology Corps is one of the solutions. But it is more than that. It is a unique experiment in bringing concerned young men into the field of conservation in this state to provide the work experience and job training that can open career doors in many conservation fields.

Although we in the Department of Conservation had long been aware that some day the conservation camp program would no longer provide the total answer to the manpower reserve problem, and although we had been searching for alternatives for a long time, the need became acute just over a year ago when, simply stated, there were not enough inmates to adequately man the camps then in existence.

Looking at the program as it then existed, it was obvious, from a purely financial point of view, that as many as five of the conservation camps must be closed by June 30, 1971. That prospect was not satisfactory to Governor Reagan or the Legislature. The question remained, what shall we do?

In our earlier examination, we had thought of some type of program where young men who had completed their high schooling and yet who had not decided where their lives would lead them could serve for, hopefully, up to two years. Such a program, we decided, would be patterned after experience in other programs we have administered

using young men, except that we would have these young people in our employ on a year-around basis rather than just during the critical months that we know as the "fire-season".

On the other hand, we knew that this program would augment the conservation camp program to the extent that the young men would engage in a variety of ecology and conservation-related work projects similar to the federal government's Civilian Conservation Corps of the pre-World War II era, including work on federal land where inmates can only work on an emergency basis.

Thus, with this concept in mind and the problem at hand, the California Ecology Corps became a fact. To implement a new program would obviously require considerable attention to detail, including recruitment. We asked ourselves, "Where can we find young men who are readily accessible, who are unemployed, and who could be put to work quickly within the limits of funds available to us?"

It was at this point that we turned to the Selective Service System and specifically to those with conscientious objector classifications.

Let me remind you that the executive order signed by Governor Reagan and subsequently ratified by the Legislature as part of the Budget Act of 1971 did not limit the California Ecology Corps to conscientious objectors. The language of the executive order does not, in fact, set forth any qualifications for persons employed in the program.

Nevertheless, we did ask that the Corps be designed as an alternate service for young men who had been classified as

conscientious objectors by local draft boards. Conscientious objector officials from the California headquarters of the Selective Service System studied our request and visited the facilities we proposed to use to house the corpsmen. Dr. Curtis Tarr, Director of the Selective Service System in Washington, D.C., also made a personal inspection trip, as did various representatives of conscientious objector associations.

In the spring of 1971 there were approximately 5,000 conscientious objectors in California, and many of them were looking for alternate service. Alternate service, incidentally, is easily defined as a twenty-four month period when conscientious objectors must work for a non-profit or public service agency, thus serving a time comparable to the time a draftee into the armed services must serve.

And so to meet the immediate problem, namely the prospect of closing five conservation camps, we had a program and we had an immediate source from which to recruit. In the meantime, we had arrived at satisfactory arrangements offsetting the additional costs of the new program (camp overhead, corpsmen pay, and subsistence) through cooperative agreements with other conservation agencies of the state and federal governments.

Basically, these agreements allowed the Department of Conservation to charge the other agencies on a man-day basis for the environmental and conservation work to be done by the new California Ecology Corps. The net cost of the ecology corps to the State of California in 1972-73 is budgeted at \$814,398 based on a

corpsmen population of 340. (See Attachment B of Appendix A for a list of projects; See Attachment C of Appendix A for budget summary.)

The agreements were negotiated, and we decided to convert inmate-manned conservation camps in Humboldt, Tehama, and Calaveras counties into centers to house the new Ecology Corps. These sites were selected because they were the closest to the work projects that were the subject of the various agreements that had been negotiated. A fourth center was later added in Inyo County.

We set July 1, 1971, as the date to officially launch the Ecology Corps; but, as it turned out, this was not a good day insofar as the nation's draft law was concerned. The law expired on that date, and it would be months before Congress would agree on a new law. In the meantime, although many of the conscientious objectors did respond and select the California Ecology Corps as their alternate service, many others concluded that in the absence of a draft law, they were under no selective service obligation whatsoever. Consequently, we did not fulfill our earlier expectation of quickly filling the new ecology centers with minimums of 80 men each.

The availability of conscientious objectors remains questionable. Despite this, there is no plan to phase conscientious objectors out of the California Ecology Corps, but rather continue the Corps as qualified alternative services for those who volunteer.

On December 1, 1971, in keeping with the original concept of the Corps, I authorized the recruitment of any qualified young

men for six-months enlistments; and this meant that we would no longer rely solely on our original source for recruitment, the conscientious objectors. We have been successful in the weeks since December 1 in recruiting young men and more than doubling the size of the corps.

The attached graph (Attachment D of Appendix A) illustrates our recruitment success, and I particularly call your attention to the increase since the first of the year. I am confident that each of the four centers will be at minimum capacity within a few weeks, thereby giving us at least 340 men.

As of today, there are slightly over 100 corpsmen who are conscientious objectors. These are men whose average age is twenty-two, who average two years of college. These are the "seniors" in the program; and the majority are, and have been, highly-productive and dedicated workers whose extra effort made the whole idea work.

Many of the new members of the Corps are in the program as a result of other forms of recruitment. Some are, for example, young men out of high school -- and out of work. There are some Viet Nam veterans in the program now, and more are expected.

Corpsmen are not regular state employees, they are exempt contractees. They do receive some benefits comparable to our regular employees, such as vacations, holidays, and workmen's compensation insurance. A comprehensive health benefit program will be implemented August 1, 1972.

Since the beginning of the program, we have provided corpsmen with food, lodging, clothing, and personal care items and have paid

them \$40 each month. Beginning July 1, 1972, corpsmen will receive at least \$100 per month plus the other items I have listed. On February 1, the overtime rate for most emergency work was set at \$2.80 per hour.

Corpsmen are entitled to approximately the same grievance procedure as allowed regular state employees, including the permanent employees of the Department of Conservation. A corpsman with a grievance discusses the problem with his immediate supervisor (generally a crew foreman of the Division of Forestry) and, failing to receive acceptable adjudication at this level, can appeal to the center director, the corps administrator, and ultimately to me.

During the summer fire season, corpsmen must remain at their duty post for a continuous five-day period. At other times, they are required to perform their normal eight-hour work shift, Monday through Friday. These requirements are not unique to the Ecology Corps, but are the same requirements applied to all fire station personnel.

The California Ecology Corps has much to offer the young men who participate. Educational institutions, such as the North American School of Conservation and Ecology, for example, are working with us in recruiting corpsmen. Several of that school's recent graduates are now corpsmen obtaining actual on-the-job experience in ecology and conservation work. Already, some corpsmen have gone on to employment for public and private environmental agencies, since service in the Corps qualifies as job experience for civil service examinations and for other employment.

Community colleges are looking at the California Ecology Corps as a possible supplement to their environmental and forestry curriculum for the same reasons.

Let me also emphasize the potential the Corps offers the State of California as a training resource for future employees of the Division of Forestry, the Department of Parks and Recreation, and other units of all levels of government concerned with environmental protection.

As I have said, four centers are now in operation. The centers and a brief description follows:

Tehama Ecology Center. Located 25 miles east of Red Bluff in Tehama County near the community of Paynes Creek, corpsmen are performing a valuable service of habitat improvement on the nearby Tehama winter deer range for the Department of Fish and Game.

Calaveras Ecology Center. This center, four miles from Angels Camp, houses corpsmen who are engaging in numerous conservation projects in the Sierras for several agencies, primarily the United States Forest Service, National Park Service, and Department of Parks and Recreation.

Humboldt Ecology Center. Situated in the midst of California's state parks, corpsmen at this center are performing vital work in recreational development for our state park system.

Inyo Ecology Center. This center is 10 miles from the city of Bishop. The corpsmen here will be involved in trail construction and other conservation projects in the High Sierra for National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Department of Parks and Recreation.

In addition to the centers, several spike camps are in operation. Corpsmen assigned to these camps, such as those at the Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park Headquarters at Ash Mountain and at El Portal near Yosemite Valley are engaged in special work projects for the National Park Service except when they are needed for fire dispatch. (Photographs of the projects are shown in Attachment E of Appendix A.)

The corpsmen have performed, and performed well, in a wide variety of projects since July 1, 1971. Representatives of several of the contracting departments have prepared testimony for your information, and a complete list of current or completed projects as of today is attached.

I'll depart now and say the members of most -- representatives of most of the agencies we contract with are available to you today. They are in the audience if you want to call them later.

Beyond its mission in ecology work and emergency fire fighting, the corps performs yet another valuable service. A skilled, trained mountain rescue team is now available to local authorities throughout the state to assist in the rescue of persons trapped in mountainous areas and cliffs.

There may be some confusion between the role of the California Ecology Corps and that of the Youth Conservation Corps, established last year, and/or the California Youth Conservation Corps, which was authorized in legislation proposed last year by Assemblyman Mobley.

The programs and the concepts are entirely different. The California Ecology Corps is a permanent year-around program

employing men who are at least eighteen years old. The other programs are primarily designed as a summer work program for younger people, both boys and girls. Both of these programs have definite roles in the protection of California's environment and, as a matter of fact, each should compliment the work of the other.

To summarize the present situation with the Ecology Corps, I would like to refer again to the situation the Department found itself in just about a year ago.

We had five fine state facilities about to be vacated, and a continuing and pressing need for the trained hand crews that have become a part of the state's resource management and protection system.

A continuing success of the Department of Corrections' rehabilitation program made it plain that it was vitally necessary to establish a work force of free people to continue these worthwhile public efforts into the years ahead.

We have succeeded in establishing the Ecology Corps in less than a year and have found that we can recruit and organize into productive crews the young men that have participated up to this point. We can look beyond work projects now contracted for to a substantial expansion in the program as other public agencies turn to these crews more and more to accomplish the purposes for which they receive public funds.

The comparison must be drawn when we look to the future with the old Civilian conservation Corps we all remember from the depression. That agency built practically the entire network of

roads and trails and campgrounds available to the Forest Service and Park Service today, and opened an area of employment for thousands of young men whose opportunities were extremely limited. Some of those same men are high in state government positions today, as they are in conservation agencies across the country.

With careful management, the Ecology Corps can fulfill those purposes in California again and at the same time we can continue our partnerships with the Department of Corrections, California Youth Authority, and the counties to the end that existing facilities can be utilized, and the vital work can go on.

I will say again, the California Ecology Corps was developed to make up the difference between the inmates and wards available to us and our manpower needs, and not to supplant them. These proven programs will continue, with the California Ecology Corps a new and exciting element.

I would ask your support and understanding to that end.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: All right.

MR. STEARNS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: All right, sir. Thank you.

At the time of the 1971 budget estimate, there were approximately 5,000 conscientious objectors?

MR. STEARNS: Yes.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: And Alan Post has advised the Legislature that during the -- or at the end of the first six months of the authorized program, you have been able to recruit 123?

MR. STEARNS: That's approximately right, yes.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Was that a disappointment?

MR. STEARNS: Yes, it was. Yes, we had presumed that the draft law would continue in some form, but we went about four months last summer when there was no federal draft act at all and, therefore, there was no compelling reason why anyone with this status or draftee status either should volunteer for anything at that point in time. These people who came, volunteered largely to -- because, I think, they anticipated that the draft act in some form would be put in and they wanted to go ahead and accomplish their two years and have it behind them.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: What if none of these men had volunteered? None of these 123? Would these posts have been available for the emergency job act -- the Federal Emergency Job Act to put welfare recipients in such jobs?

MR. STEARNS: Well, we are looking forward to the time when this can be done, but the machinery hasn't developed yet. As far as welfare recipients that is one source of manpower.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: That is the PEP program?

MR. STEARNS: The PEP program. We have working in our department, we have some 280 positions in the PEP program. They are almost all fire fighter positions, positions we use to man the fire trucks and we did not --

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: What is the starting wage under the PEP program?

MR. STEARNS: The fire fighter's starting wage is \$415 a month. In fact, in any PEP position the state has to pay a comparable

wage, what you would pay in that classification. We have some --

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: How are you able to avoid not making these comparable positions? How did you avoid that?

MR. STEARNS: Well, first we tried to put it on a volunteer basis, the funding of a separate conservation --

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: First. Start after first of all.

MR. STEARNS: I'll state it again. The balance of our conservation authority and with the Department of -- the Department of Conservation in point of view, it was about a fifty-fifty situation with the Department of Conservation putting up the crew leadership, maintenance of the facility, the necessary tools and rolling stock and, the Department of Corrections putting up the supervision in camp, the food, the in-camp supervision, the whole thing. All the logistics that go with maintaining an able man -- eighty-man facility.

When the Department of Corrections drops out of one of these facilities, they have their budget funds put in on other rehabilitation programs in other parts of the program. So, we begin with fifty percent of -- we have the leadership. We have the equipment. We have the camp. But in order to feed, cloth, and pay the new people that come in, it requires a substantial chunk of money.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Are you talking in the past tense? Have they dropped out?

MR. STEARNS: No. We still have 23 conservation camps in partnership with the Department of Corrections and the Youth Authority. But when they dropped out and they had to close the five last year,

we had just half enough money. We had to operate -- money enough to operate with everything except the corpsmen.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: All right. When and if you are able to hire welfare recipients under the auspices of the federal PEP program, that will augment your work, will it not?

MR. STEARNS: If we had done it under the PEP program, we would have had -- we went to the Department of Labor with it and they said we would have to have enough PEP positions to cover practically the whole thing as far as wages were concerned with the Corps. And the Department of Labor wouldn't go along with that. They -- the conversion was too much and the decision was made to use those positions for fire fighter support positions instead. We tried to make that deal with the Department of Labor, but we were unable to.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: I gather from your presentation that the -- that the objective of the administration was to maintain and operate these five base camps for fire fighter purposes. What difference would it make then whether or not the PEP positions went to the Department of Forestry for fire fighting positions? Who would work out of these base camps?

MR. STEARNS: If we could get that many bodies we could. But, too, I think the PEP program is designed -- it has fundings for about a year and a half. The balance of this year and one further year. And, frankly, we are trying to establish a program that will continue on through the future years and make up the difference on

a greater or lesser basis between the inmates available to us now and in the future. And the PEP program is not designed to be a permanent program, we understand.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: We are advised that some convict labor is paid 16 cents an hour in the prisons. How much do you pay these volunteers an hour?

MR. STEARNS: Under the new scale I think it figures --

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Under the old scale, when you first started out.

MR. STEARNS: Twenty-five cents, under the \$40.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Twenty-five cents an hour. And your welfare recipients under the federal PEP program, how much would they make an hour?

MR. STEARNS: Under the PEP program -- not all welfare.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: It's a fair question.

MR. STEARNS: Well, \$415 a month for a five day week.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: One seventy-five or something like that? About \$3 an hour? Two and a half?

MR. STEARNS: I have five days. I couldn't answer. We can have 24 hours a day.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Two thirty-six. I'm just trying to put your labor force in perspective. Up there on page 7 of your report you, at the bottom, you've said that these corpsmen are not regular state employees and, I think, that's emphasized by the -- how much an hour? What did you say?

MR. BILLET: Two thirty-six an hour.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Then you say they do have some benefits such as vacations, holidays, and workmen's compensation insurance.

Now, as I recall, Mr. Wilson probably is closer to the fact of law than I would be. Workmen's compensation is in the event of injury or death; is that correct?

ASSEMBLYMAN WILSON: That's correct.

MR. STEARNS: On the job.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Or within the scope of employment?

MR. STEARNS: Yes.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Now, at these camps, are these men considered within the scope of employment while they are attending the camps and not while they are home on weekends?

MR. STEARNS: Yes, that's just about right. If they are in the camp, engaging in camp activities, there would be, indeed, insurance. If they are off the camp, they would not. We had a couple of bad accidents that brought this home.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: That's what I am getting at. One of my constituents from Long Beach arrived at one of the camps on July 1st and drowned on July 11th. And yesterday I got a letter from the parents saying that apparently there was no assistance available for burial expenses or anything else.

MR. STEARNS: In that particular instance.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: The letter was from Mr. and Mrs. John Bennington.

MR. STEARNS: It was donated by a funeral home down there, as I understand it.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Of course I don't know the circumstances.

MR. STEARNS: We felt pretty bad about it.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: If a man was at the camp because of his employment and he met with death accidentally while at the camp outside of regular working hours, maybe it was swimming call, I don't know. Apparently it is the position of the state that he is not entitled to workmen's compensation benefits?

MR. STEARNS: I also have in my statement, Mr. Cullen, on the first of August we are going to be able to work out the funding for a health benefit program that will have a death benefit whether off the job or wherever. I think it has a \$5,000 death benefit, if that is right.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: No provision now?

MR. STEARNS: We haven't up until now.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Is there any comparable situation? What if a -- well, I suppose if a forester, a state forester, drowned after supper while taking a dip in a mountain pool, he's entitled to some sort of death benefit under workmen's compensation, is he not?

MR. STEARNS: Not under workmen's compensation. If he has a regular state health policy that is offered, he would have. That would be his coverage there.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Then your foresters are not considered to be on 24-hour duty?

MR. STEARNS: If they are on the duty, they are covered as these people would be on duty. If they are off duty, they are not.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Aren't foresters on 24-hour duty? Isn't that part of their particular job?

MR. JOE GRIGGS: I'm Joe Griggs, Administrator of the California Ecology Corps. Mr. Bennington was several miles from the center on a Sunday and he had been on a day off when he drowned.

MR. STEARNS: I think our information says they have regular -- prescribes if it is an 84 hour duty and if during that span of time when they are on call, why, they are protected by workmen's compensation. If their duty week has expired and they are on their three days off, they are not covered.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Mr. Griggs, are you suggesting that this lad may have taken his departure from the camp on a leave, so to speak, and wasn't required to be back until a time certain, a day or two later?

MR. GRIGGS: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Is that right?

MR. GRIGGS: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Now, on page eight you mention that you now pay overtime for most emergency work at \$2.80 an hour. More often than not the bills that come before the Legislature place overtime at time and a half, and \$2.80 appears to be about a multiple of ten if they are making 25 cents an hour. But you pay overtime of \$2.80 an hour; how did you arrive at \$2.80?

MR. STEARNS: The \$2.80 an hour is the rate we pay pick-up labor in an emergency situation and it's the -- any man that we pick up to fight fires like cat-skinners or anybody in these crews,

this is the rate the state will pay to fill sandbags or whatever and forest fires and various emergencies. It's the regular state rate and we set this.

This wasn't fully explained, but it would come for all emergency work beyond an eight hour day except search and rescue. And we did except search and rescue and there's an excellent reason for that.

The cost of that ultimately usually comes back to the parents of a lost child and we thought that unless there was some means of -- available to us to pay wages for search and rescue, that we could consider this just a part of our job.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: What if you have to augment your work force up there in the absence of an emergency? Perhaps you are just making a fire break and you are short half a dozen men.

Do you turn to the hiring halls and offer then 25 cents an hour or \$1.80 an hour?

MR. STEARNS: It would be \$2.80 an hour if they come out of the halls, for example. Yes, sir. It would be \$2.80 an hour.

The Forest Service has a comparable rate. I'm not too sure what it is.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: You mentioned with some pride that you contemplate that these positions are almost in the sense of an internship for ultimate work with the government or with the United States Forest Service. You looked to the comparable accomplishment of the Civilian Conservation Corps. I just thought that was -- well, these interns are being offered 25 cents an hour while the pick-up labor is being paid \$2.80.

MR. STEARNS: I should say that our ultimate goal will be to get the balance between the funds available to the Department of Conservation for its fire protection mission and sufficiently funded work projects on the outside to achieve at least a minimum wage. This is the goal that we have laid out. We have not seen fit to come to the Legislature for this substantial -- and it would be a substantial amount of funds necessary to put this on an instant basis. We are working towards it.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Do you have the authority to adjust the wages yourself?

MR. STEARNS: Up to the minimum wage.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Well, the only minimum statute in this state has to do with women. How do you handle men?

MR. STEARNS: Well, we would use that as a goal.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: And how much is that?

MR. STEARNS: I would think \$1.65, and Congress is working on it again now, I think, to raise it.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Mr. Wilson.

ASSEMBLYMAN WILSON: Isn't it true that you paid approximately 25 cents an hour and didn't go up to the \$1.65 an hour minimum wage because you were really looking to conscientious objectors who had no alternative and that they were really forced into accepting this wage?

MR. STEARNS: I don't think that's quite correct, Mr. Wilson, now, because we are accepting volunteers other than conscientious objectors. And we have about 100, and 125 applications pending, so

there are people. They know that there's going -- the wages are going to be \$100 minimum on the first of July. They are \$40 now, but they will be \$100 then, plus the emergency work.

ASSEMBLYMAN WILSON: But it appears to me that your agency has been willing to pay more money after the fact was established that there wasn't the conscientious objectors available to fill the jobs. It seems like there's a -- if you don't get the C.O.'s to do it, then you raise up the wages and it seems to be a problem to me that when the military has it such that a buck private gets \$268 a month, I believe, and then if a person is a conscientious -- is opposed to war and an alternative for him is to work in this Corps, he receives 25 cents an hour, which doesn't seem fair to me.

MR. STEARNS: Well, Major McCann from the Selective Service Bureau is here today. We have a very wide scale of jobs and pays, all the way from competitive wages to almost nothing. And he has the regulation with him that covers that.

Since from an employer's point of view we tried not to use threats or coercion in recruiting these people, we tried to put it on a volunteer basis. We are trying to create a volunteer basis. I didn't answer Mr. Cullen's question a while ago. If nobody had shown up, what we could have done on that basis. It would have all caved in before we began, I'm afraid. But we have had the time to work through the transition. As a matter of fact, last summer we had a very easy fire season. We had lots of fires start. We didn't have the large fires that required the hand crews. It does appear we are in this situation --

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: If that had not happened, might you not have gone down to the hiring halls where last year there were 700,000 unemployed men and hired them even though you would have had to come to the Legislature for augmentation?

MR. STEARNS: We would have come to the Legislature for augmentation to pay those wages.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: You did not want to shut down these camps? As a matter of safety in the mountains, these camps are necessary?

MR. STEARNS: The dispersion of these camps is important. The fire dispatchers, too, and we have 33 of them altogether spread out all over the state. And they have certainly in the construction of the field break system, in responding to these separate fires, have gotten to be very, very valuable. They are the best hand crew fire fighting source in the United States now because they are year-around. They are well trained in the use of tools and are in fine physical condition and they can take care of a much more fine line than any kind of pick-up crew you could get anyplace.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Are you finished, Mr. Wilson?

ASSEMBLYMAN WILSON: Mr. Stearns, I'd like to continue on the line of questioning about the conscientious objectors. You set out in your report today the procedure by which people can make their grievances known.

It seems to me that if you are a conscientious objector that you are locked into this system and so that we are really talking about something that is an illusion, that isn't really there,

because those people have no alternatives. They are forced into a situation where they take 25 cents an hour, where occasionally they can be forced to work 24 hours a day, and the grievance procedure isn't really there, because they have no other place to go.

MR. STEARNS: Well, there has been some turn-over in that we have released quite a few who found other alternate service for themselves and asked to be released to accept that service. It hasn't been a sentence in the sense that they had to keep this and nothing else for the balance of their two year enlistment. They do sign it if they have other alternate service, they have a good family reason, any substantially good reason for release. We have given those releases.

ASSEMBLYMAN WILSON: Now, you talked on the record about a six month enlistment. What do you mean by enlistment for six months?

MR. STEARNS: This is volunteers and we ask this because of the amount of training that has to go into the training of people and the physical condition that goes into making them collectively as a crew and effective force.

They -- we did so that we could accomplish this without a very rapid -- rapid turn-over. Another reason is that it will qualify them for civil service examinations as six month work experience. This is very difficult for some young men to get now, to find work experience that will qualify them. They are coming out of community colleges especially with their -- without the work experience. They have the courses, you know, in forestry and

conservation and these courses, but they haven't been able to find a job. There just aren't that many jobs for young people.

ASSEMBLYMAN WILSON: Well, one thing, when you talk about enlistment, that seems to have the connotation, at least in my mind, that is something that you join and you don't have ready alternatives to quit and look elsewhere.

MR. STEARNS: It's a contract, really, is what it is. And we are administering that the same way. If they find a better job, if they had a good legitimate reason for leaving, this is fine. If they refuse to work and we have to fire them, the -- their separation paper will indicate if they performed satisfactorily or whether they have not and naturally not all do. Some simply refuse to work or won't get up in the morning or something and they are dismissed like any other job. So, it's an agreement between two people, really; between them and the center administration that they will stay six months.

ASSEMBLYMAN WILSON: And if they do not, they receive a letter, a bad letter of recommendation?

MR. STEARNS: They don't receive a positive one. If we get an inquiry as for a recommendation on this man for a job, we'll just tell the truth.

ASSEMBLYMAN WILSON: How do you go about recruiting people for this program?

MR. STEARNS: We are still in the process of developing a formal recruiting system. Up until now we worked through the forest center directors, who have worked with the HRD office in

their areas. It is one of the referrals that Human Resources Development is making open to people coming, looking for work. And their recruitment has varied somewhat from center to center, pretty much depending on the openings.

Humboldt Center is full and there is a waiting list, but Humboldt has a large unemployment rate and from that point of view is about the worst part of California for that. At Bishop, on the other hand, the opportunity for recruitment hasn't been all that good and we are just now beginning to work up a recruitment program in Southern California for the Bishop Center.

The other two are in the -- Tehama and the Calaveras Centers have been recruiting in the valley floors, in town. This is the HRD office in the valley floors and have just begun to make these programs work. People haven't heard about it.

ASSEMBLYMAN WILSON: Now, one of the things that disturbs me is your report set out that the average age is 22 years, that the average level of education is 14 years, and the average pay is 25 cents an hour.

Now, when I hear all those facts, something tells me that there's some type of force and it must be the Selective Service System that's the impetus for a person to go into a situation like this with 14 years of education on the average. Now, you are telling me that you are willing to increase this to the minimum wage. Now, something about it tells me that this is indecent when you have a person go in and work for 25 cents an hour when you have a force pushing him into that, when if he went into the military

he would have received much more, and you have a person who is a conscientious objector being punished financially, being forced to work for 25 cents an hour when you have a person in the military working for substantially more and I think that's not fair.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: That's not a question, Mr. Stearns, I don't believe. Is that a question?

ASSEMBLYMAN WILSON: No.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: That's not a question.

Are you finished, Mr. Wilson?

ASSEMBLYMAN WILSON: Yes, I am.

ASSEMBLYMAN THOMAS: May I ask a question?

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Mr. Thomas.

ASSEMBLYMAN THOMAS: May I ask this. May I ask the consultant or the chairman, really, in the executive order of 1971 is it the contention of the consultant there's been a change in procedure and purpose of the executive order?

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Mr. Billett.

MR. BILLETT: Mr. Thomas, based upon the conversations that we've had with people administering the program and based upon our visits to two camps, it would be our impression that --

ASSEMBLYMAN THOMAS: Have they --

MR. BILLETT: Item three in that executive order is being very carefully fulfilled. It states, quote, "Assist in fire prevention and fire protection." With regard to items one and two in the executive order -- I -- someone with a better understanding of ecology perhaps would come to a different conclusion than what the staff might as to whether it's been fulfilled or not.

ASSEMBLYMAN THOMAS: Well, has the program been diverted substantially from the order of the Governor? Has it been diverted in doing so other than what the order says?

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: That's the point of inquiry, Mr. Thomas, whether or not the intent of the Legislature is being pursued or achieved. Now, in this instance, I'm not sure what legal effect the Governor's executive order had until such time as the Legislature prepared funds earmarked according to this executive order.

During the recent meeting of the subcommittee of the Senate Finance Committee, the validity and the effectiveness of the Ecology Corps was challenged, which was one of the reasons we are providing this public hearing here today. As with our other hearings, it's hoped that we'll arrive at the determination as to whether or not this particular governmental program should be curtailed, eliminated, or perhaps expanded to the -- to the size of the C.C.C. camps during the depression. Are they doing what they set out to do; is it worth a million dollars to have 123 and 250 youths training in this field; is a certain rescue team within the confines of this executive order which only mentioned people once and stresses the preservation of the natural resources throughout.

What is the source of the authority for this bonded search and rescue team? Is it within the executive order? If so where? That sort of thing.

ASSEMBLYMAN THOMAS: My last question is the intent. If you do expand the services that you would include welfare recipients to -- someone to that extent?

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: This is the question put to the Director as to whether or not recipients of welfare are being deprived of jobs because of these positions which have been paying 25 cents an hour, for the welfare recipients perhaps are being paid five times that much and they are unengaged in gainful employment. I think that's a valid comparison, Mr. Thomas:

Any further questions of members of the committee?

ASSEMBLYMAN THOMAS: I would at this time -- how many witnesses have we today? I would like to hear before we adjourn today the petitioners here as I see who have complained about the procedure of the operation.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: I notice that the petition takes, Mr. Stearns -- are there any statements?

MR. STEARNS: I have no statement to make.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Wait, excuse me. Mr. Stearns, did you want to make any further response? I rather cut you off when Mr. Wilson gave his --

MR. STEARNS: No. But I'll say through this hearing, Mr. Chairman. If you want to recall me, you can.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: All right, now, sir.

MR. WILLIAM HAUSSLER: Yes, I'm William Haussler, Assistant Chief of Operations, Department of Parks and Recreation.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: H-a-u-s-s-l-e-r

MR. HAUSSLER: And the Director wanted me to represent him. He expresses his regret at not being able to attend and he asked me to read a short statement concerning our experience with the Ecology Corps program. (Appendix B)

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: All right, sir. Go ahead.

MR. HAUSSLER: At the beginning of this fiscal year, 1971-72 we contracted with the Division of Forestry, Department of Conservation for \$203,400 of work to be performed by the Ecology Corps. \$105,400 of the work was financed directly by our department and \$98,000 is to be furnished by the United States Bureau of Outdoor Recreation from the Land and Water Conservation Fund on a reimbursement basis.

Work to be accomplished for us through this program is as follows:

1. Construction of the following facilities for statewide distribution to units of the State Park System: 1,000 picnic tables, 750 camp cupboards, 750 camp stoves, 200 fire rings, 1,000 assorted signs. Of the above facilities, 50 tables are complete and the material for another 200 has been cut and prepared, and 30 cupboards have been completed. The balance of the facilities are expected to be completed by July 1st.

2. Construction of a roadside rest at Franklin K. Land Grove in Humboldt Redwoods which includes clearing, fill, parking area, restroom building and water line. This will be complete by July 1st.

3. Relocate a 50 unit campground from Reynolds Wayside Camp in Mendocino County to Benbow Lake State Recreation Area in Humboldt County. This work is 50 percent complete and will be finished by July 1st.

4. Construction of trails in Calaveras Big Trees State Park. 96 man days have been expended to date and 510 man days remain to be used before July 1st.

Construction of a 54 unit campground at San Simeon State Beach which includes brush clearing, site preparation, tables, stoves, restroom buildings, water tanks, and campsite posts will be completed by July 1st.

Cooperation in the development and implementation of this program by Division of Forestry Headquarters and field personnel has been outstanding.

The Department of Parks and Recreation believes it will be accomplishing about twice as much work and receiving at least double the facilities through the Ecology Corps program. The above programs have been accomplished by the Department of Parks and Recreation personnel or day labor forces from the Office of Architecture and Construction in the past. The campground construction is of the primitive type; the restroom buildings of the vault or chemical toilet variety.

Extreme care and understanding have been exhibited by the Ecology Corps regarding the effects of the development of this primitive campground upon the environment and in providing a better public service for recreation needs.

And Director Mott would like to thank you for the opportunity for me to appear.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Any questions, from the committee?

ASSEMBLYMAN THOMAS: In other words, your department contends this is a successful operation?

MR. HAUSSLER: From our standpoint, from the standpoint of the agency contracting with another to have facilities constructed in a reasonable manner and on time, it is.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: All right. Thank you, sir.

Mr. Stearns, Mr. Griggs, we would appreciate it, if you are able, to remain. We'll postpone some questions we have until we hear from some other witnesses.

Mr. McKay, Mr. White and Mr. Stone, please, come forward.

Mr. McKay is one of the signatures of the petition referred to by Assemblyman Thomas and he and the other two men have asked leave to give testimony before the committee. I believe all of them are or have been members of the Ecology Corps.

At this time may I ask if there are any other members of the Ecology Corps that may feel they should give testimony, and if there are, this is the time to be seated around the table.

All right. You come up and take a seat, sir.

All right. Mr. McKay, why don't you identify yourself?

APPEARANCE OF MR. PAUL MCKAY, CORPSMAN, INYO ECOLOGY CENTER, ACCOMPANIED BY MR. NATHANIEL STONE, CORPSMAN, HUMBOLDT ECOLOGY CENTER, AND MR. TIMOTHY WHITE, CORPSMAN, ON ASSIGNMENT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION.

MR. MCKAY: Mr. Stone has asked if he could talk first.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Okay. Identify yourself.

MR. NATHANIEL STONE: My name is Nathaniel Stone. I'm from the Humboldt Ecology Center and I have just a few short things to say. My testimony before the Senate Subcommittee on -- on the Department of Conservation is in your possession now, I think. And I'm not going to cover anything that's in that. I just wanted to mention a few other things, the discrepancies that exist in the corps.

One thing is the contention that we do have a grievance procedure is actually pretty much an illusion because we are being --

well, our foremen are the same foremen that were there when it was a prison camp and they have admittedly a hard time making the transition from considering us as prisoners in a newspaper interview that was one at the Humboldt Ecology Center last week or the week before. I'm not sure which, by the Times Standard in Eureka.

One of our foremen was quoted as saying that the prisoners were much easier to work with. If they didn't want to work and if they did not, they could just send them back to prison. And that they have a hard time with us, and he said the prisoners were ideal people to work with.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: With respect to the grievance procedures, what are the grievance procedures at Humboldt?

MR. STONE: Well, when it was just C.O.'s we used to have a meeting virtually every week. At times it was only every other week, when the foreman and representatives of the corpsmen and the director of the camp would all get together and discuss problems. And there was a real feeling of working together to change things for the better. Well, that has since fallen away. And the meetings now, which are very sporadic and nowhere near once a week and nowhere -- not even actually once every two weeks, don't -- the meetings now seem to have the purpose of just having them tell us what policies they have. You know, what new policies they have decided and any grievances we have are virtually ignored.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Well, let me give you a hypothetical case. Say that you are assigned to do some work within the confines of the base in circumstances which appear to you unsafe or would

be considered unsafe of what you would be doing on the same job in downtown Sacramento. To whom do you relate this observation?

MR. STONE: Well, safety is no problem there.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: I said a hypothetical.

MR. STONE: Let me give you an example.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: I thought I was giving you one.

MR. STONE: Well, with safety, the foremen are very conscientious about that and there's not problem with safety. But for example, we do have a problem there now, since the non-C.O's have come, of thefts and over \$100 has been stolen out of people's lockers and two radios and a tape recorder and many other items like that have been stolen. And we ask -- we went to the director, to the foreman and asked them, you know, what they, you know, if they would have anything that they could do to prevent that.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: I'm trying to find out, do you start with the foremen or do you start with the director?

MR. STONE: There's no set -- set procedure. If it goes through a meeting, we talk to the director. If it doesn't go through a meeting, we talk to the foremen and then to the director or else just to the director without going to the foremen.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: So there are no posted procedures for bringing something to the attention of the camp supervisor or the ecology director?

MR. STONE: There is through the meeting, but the meetings are not -- it's ignored.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Is that posted on any bulletin boards that you know of?

MR. STONE: It used to be.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: That there will be meetings and minutes taken and forwarded to the ecology director?

MR. STONE: Not with minutes forwarded. This was posted. We had meetings. When we started they told us it would become virtually a self-run thing and that we would -- the foremen would have very little to do with working out our problems and with telling us what exactly was going to be done and the corpsmen leaders would take most of the responsibility for that.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: I'm just trying to narrow in on the grievance procedures as to whether there were any and if there were, --

MR. STONE: Like I said, there used to be, but they have pretty much fallen away. We are being treated, I think, more and more like prisoners.

To get back to what I was saying about the thefts, their solution was that we should stake out and catch the thief and take him out and beat him up. And that was their solution to the problem.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Who was that?

MR. STONE: The foremen at Humboldt.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Their solution, not the director's?

MR. STONE: No. Their solution, not the director.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: You said the foremen can be --

MR. STONE: Lou Harris, one of the -- Lindley told us that that is what we should do. They say the prisoners used to take care of it and we should take care of it the same way.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Are these men state employees?

MR. STONE: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: From what department?

MR. STONE: They are with the Division of Forestry.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: All right. Go on.

MR. STONE: Another point that I wanted to bring up is when the Selective Service Act passed in the early 1950's, the Congress made a specific note in it that there should not be national work camps and by their definition a national work camp is any place where C.O.'s are ordered from different places in the nation to work there. You know, under something like the C.C.C. Well, until people were ordered from out-of-state, the California Ecology Corps was not considered a national work camp, but recently people have been ordered from Washington state and from Minnesota and, I think, Michigan, but I'm not sure on that. And these are not -- I'm not talking about people that were given a choice of places to go and decided to go there and received an order, I'm talking about people that were out-and-out ordered there without any choice.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Well, Mr. Stearns just testified that this is a volunteer program and that there are alternate programs that may be selected and this is only one of those, and that on a number of occasions men have asked to be released from this so that they can register into another alternate program. Can you give us the names of the men who have been ordered into Humboldt and can you tell us who they are?

MR. STONE: I can only give you the name of one presently. I can send up the other names.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Give us the name.

MR. STONE: Charles Ira Workman from Washington.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Who ordered him to Humboldt?

MR. STONE: The State Director of Conscientious Objectors Division of Washington State, Selective Service Headquarters.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: All right.

MR. STONE: Ordered him to go there.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Have you -- have you spoken to anyone who knows what the current state of the Selective Service law is?

MR. STONE: Yes. Dave McFadden from the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors office in San Francisco. I had a talk with him and he said it's definitely illegal.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: He believes the law remains unchanged in that respect?

MR. STONE: Yes.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: That conscientious objectors may not be ordered to work camps?

MR. STONE: Right. From out-of-state to national work camps. There's a difference if they were from California or all from California. It's apparently very legal. But according to what Dave McFadden told me, if they are ordered from different states to one place, one work camp, then it becomes a national work camp, which was specifically forbidden.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: And about how many out-of-staters do you think might be involved in the California camps?

MR. STONE: I wouldn't care to estimate.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Mr. Thomas.

ASSEMBLYMAN THOMAS: Are you a conscientious objector?

MR. STONE: Yes, sir. I am.

ASSEMBLYMAN THOMAS: That is the reason you are at the camp?
How long have you been there?

MR. STONE: Since September 1, 1971.

ASSEMBLYMAN THOMAS: And what is your earnings per month?

MR. STONE: Well, in September I made \$40 plus \$4.28 over-
time. Every other month I have made \$40.

ASSEMBLYMAN THOMAS: What are your fringe benefits?

MR. STONE: I get the use of the clothes I'm wearing. I'm
supposed to turn them back in when I get released. I get free
haircuts.

ASSEMBLYMAN SEELEY: You're not getting your money's worth,
are you?

(Laughter)

ASSEMBLYMAN THOMAS: Do you have any health facilities there?

MR. STONE: At Humboldt Ecology Center the medical care is
not really much of a problem. If somebody gets hurt, they take
him to the doctor and they care -- take care of the bills. For
example, I had myself a tooth that started. The cavity -- the
filling started falling out. It was hurting and they sent me to
the doctor, the dentist, and they took care of the bill.

ASSEMBLYMAN THOMAS: When can you leave the camp? How much
time must you serve there?

MR. STONE: I have been notified that May 24th of this year
is my release date. I served 15 months at different jobs before
this, so my release date is May 24th of this year.

ASSEMBLYMAN THOMAS: How many have you at the Humboldt Camp now?

MR. STONE: How many C.O.'s?

ASSEMBLYMAN THOMAS: Yes.

MR. STONE: At the last count, the last time I counted, was at the time of the Senate Hearings a couple of weeks ago and at that count there was 31. There isn't that many now.

ASSEMBLYMAN THOMAS: Well, how many are not conscientious objectors?

MR. STONE: How many at the camp are not?

ASSEMBLYMAN THOMAS: Yes.

MR. STONE: There's a little less than 30 conscientious objectors, a little more than 50 non-conscientious objectors.

ASSEMBLYMAN THOMAS: Are you all treated the same? You get the same wages?

MR. STONE: Virtually.

ASSEMBLYMAN THOMAS: You get the same wage?

MR. STONE: Yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN THOMAS: There's no partiality, treating one group different?

MR. STONE: No. None at all.

One thing I would like to say about the health benefits is the workmen's compensation that we are promised, apparently when it doesn't suit the state, it doesn't come though. One person had part of one finger cut off and the finger cut wide open while he was working, doing state work, working, making picnic tables on state time. And they paid for his medical bills, but he's unable

to work while his finger is healing. But rather than give him the workmen's compensation, they just said, "We'll pay your full month's salary."

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: They'd have to give him more.

MR. STONE: Workmen's compensation would be more, yes. They decided rather they'd pay a full month's salary.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: What is his name?

MR. STONE: His name is Scott Sodaquist.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Is he still there?

MR. STONE: Yes.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Mr. Wilson.

ASSEMBLYMAN WILSON: I'll just ask if you know if the rating disability was made on this man?

MR. STONE: I don't know what that means.

ASSEMBLYMAN WILSON: Well, from two or three months ago when I used to practice law, what happens on a rating disability is a person is brought in to see a doctor. At that time the disability rating is made. If you have an injury to a finger it might be a one percent and there's a projection made in compensation made according to the amount of disability.

MR. STONE: I heard an estimate. I have been gone for a week and a half and I just got back yesterday. And I heard an estimate before I left. It was going to be like one dollar a month for life or a lump sum of \$2,000. But I don't know whether that estimate -- how real that estimate was or if it's -- anything has been decided since then. I don't know.

ASSEMBLYMAN WILSON: One thing, I heard your wage is 25 cents per hour?

MR. STONE: Right.

ASSEMBLYMAN WILSON: How much education do you have?

MR. STONE: Me, I have got 60 semester units of college. Just about a year and a half.

ASSEMBLYMAN WILSON: In addition to 25 cents per hour, you get your room and board. Is that correct?

MR. STONE: Right.

ASSEMBLYMAN WILSON: Can you describe the type of accomodations you have?

MR. STONE: We -- one thing we were told is that if they were to pay \$100 a month, they would consider the room to be one dollar a month and I can't disagree with that. It's -- there's --

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: You were told by whom?

MR. STONE: By the director of our camp, Moses Estrada, that they would.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Moses Estrada?

MR. STONE: Estrada.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Estrada.

MR. STONE: What it is, it is basically two buildings. The corpsmen living in one building is for the leaders and it has, if I'm not mistaken, seven rooms and they put the leaders two persons per room in that. The other building houses everybody else and it's shaped like a gigantic F with the bottom part of it being the lavatory and my room is at the very end of that because I'm a laundry man. But everyone else sleeps in the one large L-shape thing. And what

it is, they put metal lockers, two metal lockers and one wooden locker between them in a series out from the wall and they separate one room from another room and then most people put a board across the top and arrange blankets from it to separate the hallway from their actual cubicle. And I think it's two people in one of those rooms. Those rooms inside of the dimensions created by the lockers comes to about, I'd say, 10 or 12 feet by 10 or 12 feet.

ASSEMBLYMAN WILSON: Can you tell us what an average day is like? What time you get up? What time you eat?

MR. STONE: There's a notice on the bulletin board that everybody will be out of bed by 7:30 a.m. ostensibly so the barracks can be cleaned before people go to work. And everybody has -- everybody who works out of the camp has to be out at the bus at 8:00 a.m. If they are working in the woodshop, they have to be in the woodshop at 8:00 a.m. The in-camp jobs, those are staggered depending upon the job. I, being laundry man, I can't give you a very accurate picture of what it's like for most people in the grade crew.

Now when I was on the grade crew, there was six people on the grade crew and now there's 45. So, I can't really give you an accurate picture of what that's like.

ASSEMBLYMAN WILSON: When I was going through basic training at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, with the Green Berets we had an elaborate meal set out in the front of the mess hall everyday, but when you go in the meal would be different than that which was set out. Do you have any problems like that?

MR. STONE: No. The food at the Humboldt Center as opposed to the other ones is very good. There's -- I mean, relatively,

for institutional food, it's not as good as what I was eating before, but for institutional food, I have to recommend it over almost any other.

They give us granola for breakfast if we want it and as many eggs as somebody wants for breakfast. Fresh -- there's always a big bowl of fresh fruit out there. Fresh milk and it's not as good as the food at home, but there's not much that can be complained about.

ASSEMBLYMAN WILSON: You said as opposed to other centers?

MR. STONE: Paul can tell you what the food at Inyo is like.

ASSEMBLYMAN THOMAS: I can tell you some restaurants that have very poor food in Sacramento. Anyway, I'd like to come out there. I think we should go out and visit these camps.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: All right. Mr. Thomas, the statement of March 15th by Nathaniel Stone will be incorporated into the record at this time. (Appendix C)

Mr. Stone, would you tell us what you meant when in your statement you say the director of the center has said the California Ecology Corps is not really meant to be and I quote, "Ecology Corps," unquote. Its function is to fight fires! Would you elaborate on that?

MR. STONE: Moses Estrada told us many times at the meetings that we used to have last fall that he has asked his superiors to change the name from California Ecology Corps to quit misleading new recruits. And, you know, like when we were asking, "This is the California Ecology Corps. Why aren't we doing ecology work?" At that time all we were doing was splitting logs.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: What do you consider to be ecology work?

MR. STONE: Protecting and preserving the environment for the environment's sake, not for the sake of man.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: With respect to the mountain counties, how would you relate that into physical terms?

MR. STONE: Some of the projects that we have asked to do and have been -- which have been refused are to work with Dr. Becking of Humboldt State College, who has a grant to work in the Rockefeller Forest and Bull Creek Basin area of Humboldt Redwood State Park to preserve the redwoods there, which are in danger since the flood caused by the clearing in 1920 in the Bull Creek Basin. And we have asked to work with Dr. Becking to make studies on these redwoods to see what could be done, what would make them healthier and preserve them and also to replant and try to stop the erosion that's happening in the watershed area that comes down into that basin.

To date one crew took one day to plant in the Bull Creek Basin compared with the two or three crews working every single day the last few months on making camp sites. And at an earlier time one crew took half a day to reforest a burned off area and there's a lot more areas that need work like that done to them besides the, you know, just trying to find out what will help the redwoods.

We have also asked to get more involved in recycling of recyclable materials in Humboldt County. And so far they allow one man to take one day a week to go to the recycling center in Arcata and work with them there. And there are many other people who are willing, but they are told, you know, we're not funded to

do that kind of work.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Well, in the executive order, Governor Reagan said that the Corps shall, "Utilize its members in conservation and emergency projects to effect full utilization and protection of the natural resources for the greatest possible number of people."

Now, have any of these tasks, are any of these tasks enumerated by you outside of that function set forth by the Governor? Preparation of camp sites, isn't that so that people can utilize the natural resources, the hiking trails, and what-not?

MR. STONE: Well, sure. The preparation of camp sites, I think, is relatively good. It keeps people from trampling, you know, people that don't know how to act in the woods. Keeps them from trampling and destroying a lot of -- a large part of the virgin woods and keeps them in one place where they can just throw their litter where it can be picked up easily rather than all over the hillside. So, it does have a somewhat beneficial effect; but, I'm not cutting down anything that any of the -- any of the work that we are doing so far. I think it's good. But I think it doesn't go far enough. It doesn't do enough to protect the environment. It's like -- it's treating symptoms more than problems.

ASSEMBLYMAN THOMAS: May I ask one more question before the witness leaves. After your working hours, are you free to leave the camp and go back any time you want?

MR. STONE: Other than in fire season, yes. During fire season we cannot. We have to be there 24 hours a day, five days a week.

ASSEMBLYMAN THOMAS: So, actually it's not similar to prison, is it?

MR. STONE: Well, there is one thing that keeps us there at the camp and economically we are prisoners. All of the camps are located in such a place that the nearest town is quite a ways away and usually the nearest town is not a very big town. If you want to go to a show or see a concert or things that people our age usually do, you have to drive a long ways and it costs a lot of money for us. To go to the nearest town of any size, which is about 25,000 people, near us, it costs me \$5 to go up there and back. And for you people \$5 wouldn't be a lot. It's an eighth of a month's pay.

ASSEMBLYMAN THOMAS: How much an hour are you getting?

MR. STONE: Twenty-five cents.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Mr. Seeley.

ASSEMBLYMAN SEELEY: Yes. My question of Mr. Stone is, I have listened to your complaints and I don't really see where there's very much in the way of a complaint. You say you think you should be doing more in the way of ecology. You have only been there since September. Do you feel yourself a qualified man to make those statements that you should be the one to change the system?

MR. STONE: I think if any of -- anybody thinks that they have a better idea, then they should consider themselves qualified to try and do something to make it better.

ASSEMBLYMAN SEELEY: Well, I've been here in the Legislature for over a year and I see a lot of things that could be changed that would be better, but I don't imagine I'll be able to change

them quickly.

ASSEMBLYMAN THOMAS: You are not supposed --

MR. STONE: I don't imagine I have been trying --

ASSEMBLYMAN SEELEY: That isn't a legitimate complaint. I was here for the purpose of listening to complaints you had about your treatment up there and I haven't heard you say anything as yet that would be -- where you had been mistreated.

MR. STONE: Like I say, I'm leaving out most of the things that I said March 15th merely for the fact it's in the record already and I figured it would be just a lot easier. I can enumerate things that I consider to be unjust treatment.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: I think that may be covered by Mr. McKay. Are you going to get into that also?

MR. PAUL MCKAY: The petition will be the basis to my testimony plus the notes I have made.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Well, perhaps we can interrupt Mr. Stone at this point and go to Mr. McKay.

MR. MCKAY: I'd like to say at this point Mark Bonander is from out-of-state and was ordered into the Ecology Corps by his draft board.

ASSEMBLYMAN SEELEY: May I ask a question. Does anybody know how this takes place?

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Mr. Bonander, Mr. Seeley would like to know how this takes place.

APPEARANCE OF MR. MARK BONANDER, CORPSMAN, INYO ECOLOGY CENTER.

ASSEMBLYMAN SEELEY: How is it that out-of-staters come here?

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Where are you from?

MR. MARK BONANDER: Minneapolis, Minnesota. I quit my job in a hospital. I was a nurse's aid. And the draft board wrote me a letter and said they wanted to talk to me and they offered me a job in the ecology center. And I said, "Well, I'll do it." So, they wrote me up my orders and put me on a bus and I ended up at Bishop.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Where were you initially?

MR. BONANDER: Minneapolis.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: And who in Minneapolis offered you a job in the California Ecology Corps?

MR. BONANDER: Let's see. He's the director of the C.O.'s for the Minnesota Selective Service.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Was there any kind of literature shown to you by way of invitation from the State of California?

MR. BONANDER: Yes. There was a pamphlet shown to me, a mimeographed copy describing the California Ecology Corps.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Mr. Seeley.

ASSEMBLYMAN SEELEY: Well, does that mean you were ordered here or did you come on your own free will and accord?

MR. BONANDER: Well, it's kind of a settled thing, I'd say. It's either we -- you go to the Ecology Corps or we'll start court proceedings for draft evasion or whatever. I don't know.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Who said that?

MR. BONANDER: This is the Selective Service.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Mr. Seeley.

ASSEMBLYMAN SEELEY: I would assume then that you accepted this? This is what you would rather do? It's still not an

order. It's not a sentence or anything?

MR. BONANDER: Well, yes. It's my choice to court and possibly jail.

ASSEMBLYMAN SEELEY: That's all.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: All right. Mr. McKay.

Excuse me. We're going to have a five minute break.

(Recess.)

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: All right. Now, I'd like now, if I may, to ask Mr. McKay, is it not Mr. McKay who is to present his position? I don't know whether you'd rather summarize it or have it incorporated in the record.

MR. MCKAY: I'd rather read it.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Sir?

MR. MCKAY: I'd rather read the petition. Why don't I read it unless you are stuck for time?

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: I want everybody to have the best presentation possible. There are others in the audience who are entitled to respond and, therefore, it is -- well, this is an open and public hearing. Just a minute, please.

All right, sir. Go ahead.

MR. MCKAY: As you can see, it's a copy of a document we delivered one original signed copy to Governor Reagan's secretary this morning. You have one of the original signature copies (Appendix D), and I think Mr. Griggs has one.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Excuse me, Mr. McKay. Mr. Griggs, do you have one for Mr. Stearns?

MR. GRIGGS: Yes.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: You had a copy left with Governor Reagan this morning. All right. Now, begin. (Appendix D)

MR. McKAY: To: The Honorable Ronald Reagan, Governor of the State of California. From: Members of the California Ecology Corps, Inyo Ecology Center. Petition.

The purpose of this petition is three-fold. It will show that dissatisfaction among the members of the California Ecology Corps (CEC) is more widespread than the Governor has been led to believe. It will ask that the original intent of the CEC be recalled and reviewed. It will request a discussion of executive support for state funding of CEC projects.

1. Since its inception, the CEC has shown a trend toward a low corpsmen population and a high corpsmen turnover rate. Low morale has led to disputes, resignations, and general dissatisfaction within the Corps.

Such negative aspects tend to overshadow positive elements: satisfaction in work accomplished and pride in readiness for emergency are undermined by anger and frustrated depression over a lack of response to questions and grievances. The undersigned believe that behind these grievances, and the low morale engendered by them, are several definite causes.

The main function of the Ecology Corps is to provide trained hand crews for the fighting of wildfires, according to Mr. Joe Griggs, Director of CEC. Wildfire fighting is difficult and dangerous work, yet corpsmen have no life insurance, no health insurance, and receive meager wages. Corpsmen receive a minimal food allotment. During fire season corpsmen remain on call 24 hours a day, five

days a week without compensation.

Although workmen's compensation provides some death benefits, Corps personnel who are not working or on base are not covered in case of accident. Two corpsmen have drowned since the beginning of the program and neither left any bequest for the simple reason that they could not afford insurance premiums. Life insurance is a distressing subject, but it would seem only right that corpsmen be provided some coverage over and above workmen's compensation as death can occur at any time.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: May I interrupt at this point, please, and go on the record. With respect to not being able to afford insurance premiums, would you know whether there's a deduction made from the \$40 for state disability insurance and whether this is optional with the corpsmen?

MR. MCKAY: As far as I know there's no deduction there.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: We'll ask the director that later. Thank you. You may resume.

MR. MCKAY: Our only health plan is workmen's compensation, which has never been fully explained to us. Direct injuries incurred on the job or at the ecology center are fully covered; but, even though we live in state barracks, only one visit per man to a doctor has been allowed in the case of illness, and medication or further visits to a doctor must be paid for out of the corpsman's \$40 a month compensation. Corpsmen need a more comprehensive medical health plan, and should be provided some dental care. In the case of a prolonged illness a corpsman is discharged for being ill. Discharged corpsmen are not given any severance pay.

Despite the fact that our room and board and other essentials are provided by the state, our wages are inadequate compensation for the type of work corpsmen do. Our day-to-day projects are largely manual labor. For this work we receive \$2 per day. When on the fire line, corpsmen receive only 25 cents per hour (60 cents after July 1, 1972) for the first eight hours, after which we receive \$2.80 per hour overtime wages. This totals \$13.20 per day (\$16 after July 1), or \$1.10 per hour (\$1.33 after July 1st) averaged over a standard 12 hour shift. CEC Director Joe Griggs has publicly stated that corpsmen should receive the legal minimum wage at the very least.

Our food allotment of .534 cents per man, per meal, remains static while food costs rise. While our likelihood of strenuous fire duty increases, our nourishment decreases. (See Food Price Sample Chart Attached to Appendix D)

ASSEMBLYMAN WILSON: May I interrupt here?

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: On the record. Mr. Wilson.

ASSEMBLYMAN WILSON: Am I to understand that you are allowed to see the doctor once with a particular illness?

MR. McKAY: Yes. That's our paid visit is one visit. No medication and no further visits.

ASSEMBLYMAN WILSON: Then if subsequent visits are required for the same illness, you have to pay for that?

MR. McKAY: That's right.

ASSEMBLYMAN WILSON: So am I to understand if a person has a leg broken, their first visit to the doctor to have the leg set would be paid for. The second visit to, say, take off the

cast would be paid at your expense. Is that correct?

MR. McKAY: If the injury was incurred outside the conditions of workmen's compensation, that's my understanding of how that would be paid. We haven't had any injury of that type that wasn't covered by workmen's compensation. In fact, we haven't had any serious injuries, I don't believe, at the Inyo Center. I know of a case of ear infection.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: I suppose it's difficult carrying on a dialogue with a couple of lawyers?

MR. McKAY: Yes.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: But you responded if the injury occurs outside the area of workmen's compensation, yet in your petition here you have said direct injuries incurred on the job or at the center are fully covered.

MR. McKAY: Yes.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: "But even though we live in state barracks, only one visit per man to a doctor has been allowed in the case of illness, and further visits to a doctor must be paid for out of the corpsman's \$40 a month compensation."

Now, are you trying to make a distinction between injuries that occur on the job or at the center as opposed to illness that may be --

MR. McKAY: Illness and injuries out of the center or off the job are one category not covered.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Are those the -- is that the situation where you are limited to one visit per man to a doctor?

MR. McKAY: As far as I know any illness and injuries

outside the center are limited to one visit per man.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: If it occurs on the job, there's no limit?

MR. McKAY: Or at a Corps' function. For instance, we've had a few injuries playing basketball locally. They have been taken care of because it's a team representing the Ecology Corps.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: I think I have it clear now. Thank you.

MR. McKAY: During the eight months fire season, corpsmen must remain on base for 120 hours; five consecutive days on stand-by alert without compensation for the 16 daily hours off work, but still confined to the center. This situation, according to those who have experienced it, leads to boredom and irritability. This might be alleviated by a general improvement in the areas previously mentioned.

At the Inyo Ecology Center the corpsmen are unanimous in their concern that the above points be resolved, and that their dissatisfaction with current conditions be known.

2. The work performed by corpsmen at the Inyo Center is largely the same as was performed by the previous inmate population under the California Department of Corrections. Corpsmen fight fires; are leased to other agencies for manual labor projects, such as the building of rock and earth dams; and perform camp chores. With few exceptions, these are the tasks which Inyo corpsmen perform in the name of ecology. These tasks were all performed at Inyo by inmates under CDC's Conservation Center program.

The undersigned request a discussion with the California Division of Forestry and the Office of the Governor to define the types of work, ecologically oriented or not, which are to be

expected of CEC. We believe that "ecology" is a misnomer for the work the corps performs.

3. At the present time, the Ecology Corps is a self-supporting state agency. Because of the limited funds of other state and federal agencies to which corpsmen are leased, it is impossible to achieve the previously mentioned requests without state funding. The undersigned ask the Governor to consider executive support in the Legislature oriented toward general funding of the Ecology Corps to cover higher wages, health and life insurance, and a larger food-cost allotment. We also ask the Governor to support limited funding for specific ecology-oriented projects; such projects might be suggested by faculty members of state colleges and universities. We believe that these measures would appreciably improve morale, work quality, and sense of pride in the Corps.

4. Conclusion. We request that the items mentioned in the first section be carefully considered by the Governor, the Legislature, and the California Division of Forestry, and that response be made to each.

We request that the CEC's work profile be defined by the executive branch and CDF.

If CEC work remains in the field of conservation, we request that the word "ecology" be dropped from the Corps' name, and that a more realistic one, such as "Forestry" or "Environment" be substituted.

We request that prospective corpsmen be shown lists of projects completed or on-going, and that the projects be in order

according to man hours spent on each. There should be a separate listing for each ecology center.

We request a regular quarterly meeting be held between the CEC director, the center directors, and corpsmen representatives from all centers.

We request a direct response to this petition from the Governor of the State of California.

The undersigned believe in the present and potential worth of the California Ecology Corps. We believe that CEC can do much in the field of environmental protection. However, we also believe that poor wages, poor food, lack of severance pay, and lack of insurance must be corrected; these factors limit the Corps' attractiveness as employment.

We hope that the California Ecology Corps will expand and improve as a force for ecology in the State of California.

Copies given to: The Honorable Ronald Reagan, Governor of the State of California. Mr. Joe Griggs, Director of the California Ecology Corps. Assemblyman Mike Cullen and members of the Assembly Committee on Efficiency and Cost Control. Members of the Press.

It's signed by, in person, by 38 members of the Corps at the Inyo Ecology Center, and I have signed it and presented it. More would have signed it from all I have talked to extensively for weeks about the Corps, and I believe they would all have signed the petition had they been there and that's the entire population of Inyo.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: What is your educational background, Mr. McKay?

MR. MCKAY: High school.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: On the third page you alluded to an eight month fire season where corpsmen must remain on base for 120 hours, five consecutive days?

MR. MCKAY: That's per week.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Without compensation. Is that every week?

MR. MCKAY: Yes, five days a week. Two off. The weekends are staggered between all of us so there's available crews for fire fighting. So one crew will have Saturday and Sunday off. One crew will have Monday and Tuesday off.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: I see.

MR. MCKAY: But it's consecutive days, five and two.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Do you have any questions, Mr. Wilson?

ASSEMBLYMAN WILSON: Yes. Paul, you mentioned in your petition poor food. Could you spell that out for us?

MR. MCKAY: Our food, a good proportion of it, is starch food, potatoes or bread. Our meats are mostly chicken, fish, and low, very low, grades of beef. Our vegetables are almost entirely canned vegetables. We get one glass of fresh milk a day which is all we are allowed. The rest of the time we drink mixed milk.

We get for lunches -- and we are doing very heavy work. I want to remind you at least the two major work crews have been mostly building rock dams, work that is strenuous for a while now. For lunches we get two sandwiches, a piece of fruit and some cookies or something like that. Usually it's gone at the coffee break, you know. A little bit left over, maybe.

We feel that we need better food, higher quality food, more food. And one thing is that this varies from camp to camp.

At one of the camps, I believe it is Humboldt, you can have a quart of milk to take to lunch with you. Is that correct?

MR. STONE: There's no limit to what you can take to lunch with you.

MR. MCKAY: Now, our cook or chief cook, a guy named Walt, has tried very hard to stay close to that budget. He's averaged about 56 cents per man per meal cost. And he's kept that pretty close to that, but food costs are rising and because he's trying to keep within his allotted money, the quality of food is going down, you know. The price of meat went up during the wage-price freeze. It's really incredible, during that time.

There are some things, for instance, each month we can't afford to order. Sometimes some kind of vegetable. We have very little fresh vegetables, for instance. There's no provision for any kind of vitamin supplements.

ASSEMBLYMAN WILSON: You mentioned that you are leased out to the federal government occasionally. Is that correct?

MR. MCKAY: We have done work for the U.S. Forest Service.

ASSEMBLYMAN WILSON: On those times, when you are leased and maybe you can't answer this -- does the federal government pay your wage when you are leased to the federal government, or does the state pay for the work done for the federal government?

MR. MCKAY: Like if we work for the U.S. Forest Service building a fence, the Forest Service will pay for it out of their budget.

ASSEMBLYMAN WILSON: The U.S. Forest Service?

MR. McKAY: Will pay for that out of their money.

ASSEMBLYMAN WILSON: Is that in addition to the 25 cents an hour that you receive?

MR. McKAY: I'm not sure, but I think we receive our 25 cents an hour out of that. It's something like \$8.50 a day which we receive \$2. In July the overall amount, I think, is going up to \$12.50 a day. Our wages are going up.

ASSEMBLYMAN WILSON: So that if you are leased to the federal government, the government pays your 25 cents an hour rather than the state?

MR. McKAY: Plus other monies, \$8.50.

ASSEMBLYMAN WILSON: But if you work for a month for the federal government, would you still receive \$40 a month?

MR. McKAY: Yes.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Mr. McKay, has the head cook converted that 56 cents into calories? Has he tried to turn over this?

MR. McKAY: He's tried to keep as much good food, as much vegetables and meats. He's done miracles with the food.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Has anyone done a calorie count? You are talking about hard work.

MR. McKAY: No. I lost weight for the first couple of weeks I was there. Then I gained it back in muscle. I don't know. I seem to be maintaining a balance, but I'm also buying my own vitamin supplements. Lots of people are.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Do you know whether a dietitian has been near any of the camps?

MR. MCKAY: No. I don't know anything like that. It is the -- one thing I'm trying to point out in West Acres, I'm not an expert on nutrition or anything like that, but the food costs are going up and the food allotment is remaining steady. Something has to give somewhere. It looks like the food, either in quality or quantity. That's, I think, what is said somewhere, you know.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Do you have any questions, Mr. Seeley?

ASSEMBLYMAN SEELEY: No.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: All right.

MR. MCKAY: Can I speak?

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: Yes.

MR. MCKAY: I want to say our relations with the foremen and so on, they were rocky for a while, the relationship with the foremen and camp director, who is in the audience here, and the administrator, they are getting much better. We have an extremely fine relationship with our group foremen. We have no complaints about them at all as far as I know. They are fine people to work with and I want to say something about John Clark, the center director, and Phil Thomas, ranger one, and the rest of the center staff. They are all excellent people to work with.

CHAIRMAN CULLEN: All right, sir. Thank you.

We have another witness that wants to contribute.

MR. TIMOTHY WHITE: My name is Timothy White and I'm a corpsman. I'm presently on assignment, a special assignment to the Department of Conservation, working in the information office. And I haven't intended to testify so I have not prepared a statement.