

**Testimony
Martin F. Horn
Commissioner of Corrections
House Judiciary Committee Public Hearing
August 22, 1995**

GOOD MORNING CHAIRMAN BIRMELIN, MEMBERS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON CRIME AND CORRECTIONS.

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO APPEAR BEFORE YOU TO TESTIFY ON LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD AUTHORIZE THE COMMONWEALTH TO CEDE TO THE UNITED STATES CONCURRENT JURISDICTION OVER THE REAL PROPERTY IN THE COMMONWEALTH ACQUIRED BY THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS.

THE RIDGE ADMINISTRATION SUPPORTS THIS LEGISLATION. BENEFITS WILL ACCRUE TO THE UNITED STATES AND THE COMMONWEALTH. IN PARTICULAR, ITS ENACTMENT IS EXPECTED TO REALIZE SAVINGS FOR TAXPAYERS AT BOTH THE STATE AND LOCAL LEVELS. WE ENVISION THAT SAVINGS OCCURRING IN TWO WAYS.

FIRST, THE INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF CRIMES COMMITTED WITHIN THESE FEDERAL CORRECTIONS FACILITIES WILL BE HANDLED PRIMARILY BY THE FBI, AND THE U. S. ATTORNEYS OFFICE, IN LIEU OF LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PROSECUTORS. SECOND, OUR STATE CORRECTIONS FACILITIES WILL NOT HAVE TO HOUSE INMATES CONVICTED OF CRIMES COMMITTED DURING THEIR STAY IN A FEDERAL FACILITY. LET ME ELABORATE. AN INMATE INCARCERATED AT ONE OF

THE DELINEATED FEDERAL PRISONS ASSAULTS A CORRECTIONS OFFICER. THE INCIDENT IS INVESTIGATED BY LOCAL POLICE, PROSECUTED BY THE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY AND FOUND GUILTY OF ASSAULT BY THE COURT. WHERE THE JUDGE IMPOSES A CONSECUTIVE SENTENCE THAT INMATE, ONCE RELEASED FROM THE FEDERAL PRISON WILL SERVE HIS SENTENCE FOR ASSAULT AT ONE OF THE STATE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS. FRANKLY, I DON'T NEED ANY MORE INMATES IN MY FACILITIES. TODAY, WE HAVE A POPULATION OF 30,684 INMATES IN OUR SYSTEM. LESS THAN THREE WEEKS AGO, WE HAD 30,293. BY THE YEAR END WE ARE LOOKING AT 33,000. WE ARE AT CRITICAL LEVELS OF OVERCROWDING. THUS, OUR EFFORTS TO DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM WILL BE FACILITATED BY ENACTMENT OF THE BILL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, THIS CONCLUDES MY PREPARED REMARKS. I WILL BE HAPPY TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT HAVE.