



**FEDERAL PRISON COUNCIL 33**  
(AFL - CIO)

**LEGISLATIVE ISSUES**

Appropriations Committees in the House and Senate have passed the President's budget request of 6.8 billion dollars for the federal prison system. This increase will provide additional staffing by the end of 2011 of 1800 correctional workers. It will bring on line three federal prisons and allow the federal government to purchase the state prison in Thomson, IL. This purchase will give the federal system an additional 1600 high security beds. High security prisons are currently 52% over rated capacity.

Our main concern is if a Continuing Resolution is used at any point after September 30, 2010. This would require the Federal Bureau of Prisons to spend at the 2010 levels of 6.1 billion dollars. It would hold off the purchase of Thomson keeping that bed space offline. The BOP would not be able to hire additional staff to handle the increasingly overcrowded current facilities. We respectfully request "anomaly" language to be added to any C.R. authorizing BOP to spend at the 2011 rate. This was done previously between 2008 and 2009 fiscal years during the C.R. process.

Health and Safety of staff continues to be a top priority. H.R. 1990 now has 30 co-sponsors and we would like a hearing on the bill. In the Senate we need a companion of H.R. 1990 filed with the Judiciary Committee. There have been 15 homicides in the federal system this year between inmates. In June 2008, a Corrections Officer was murdered by two inmates with homemade weapons. To this date officers still have no defensive protection against attacks. GAO is currently studying BOP policy regarding health and safety of its officers, but, we continue to have assaults on staff at all types of BOP facilities.

Federal Prison Industries, a correctional program that operates on non-appropriated funding has announced the closure of nine (9) factories and the downsizing of eleven (11) more. Idle inmates in overcrowded, understaffed facilities increases the likelihood of more assaults and in a worst case scenario another murder. The program was damaged due to contracting changes in the 2004 DOD Authorization Act. The slow down in military spending, the war in Iraq and the economy in general also contributed to the problem. The Congress must authorize other sources of work for inmates such as repatriation of work from overseas or partnering with non-profits in the U.S.. This may require some appropriated funding to get these programs operating.

If your office has any questions please contact: Phil Glover, National Legislative Coordinator, Council of Prison Locals, AFGE at 814-243-6764 or GloverL3951@aol.com

*"Gain Strength Through Unity"*