



# Wisconsin State Employees Union

## Council 24

**AFL-CIO**

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Robert McLinn, President  
Martin Beil, Executive Director

February 23, 2005

Matt Frank, Secretary  
Wisconsin Department of Corrections  
PO Box 7855  
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Secretary Frank:

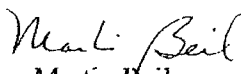
I often advise our leaders not to get into a "pissing match with a skunk", but in this instance I cannot resist. I found it absolutely incredulous that you and your Administration are so bold as to make this issue a taxpayer vs. rank and file worker issue. If you want to talk about "indefensible arrangements" that are not in the "public interest", let alone "taxpayers' interest", what about the fully paid multiple day managerial soiree at the Kalahari in the Dells, or the recent multiple day Wardens' retreat at the Radisson Hotel in LaCrosse, or better yet, what about the recent unit managers' justification for a unit at Red Granite that knits or crochets, or the thousands of dollars spent on Institution Warden's "coronations", or finally, sending juvenile administrators to Washington, DC to play in the Homeland Security programs? Asking the taxpayers to spend that kind of money is really a significant serious issue.

Unfortunately your legal tunnel vision about what constitutes "good labor-management relations" drives the relationship in the opposite direction. As you will soon find out, there are many practices in the Department of Corrections that were not bargained or recorded publicly, many of which were a boon to the Administration. We are now tracking them and evaluating them through the same myopic lens that your administration is using.

We feel strongly that the arrangement established in your agency with Local 2748 provided "common ground and served the people of Wisconsin". The value of the arrangement lies in the problems avoided, grievances settled, and enhanced communications.

Unfortunately, it got in the way of the new Administration's mentality of "I'm the boss, and how dare you challenge me". Too bad! Another opportunity lost.

Sincerely,

  
Martin Beil  
Executive Director

