

MISMANAGEMENT: PRIVATIZATION EFFORTS JEOPARDIZE PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH

Privatization: Against it, before he was for it?

2002 Campaign Trail: Against Large-Scale Privatization Before He Was For it?

WALKER: **Opposed to large-scale privatization.** In favor of seeking public-private partnerships where appropriate, such as the system used for the Milwaukee Public Museum. [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 3/29/2002]

Both acknowledged taxes may have to go up, though Walker said any increase should be below the rate of inflation. **Both expressed opposition to privatization,** but Ryan did not rule out the possibility of exploring it.

[Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 4/4/2002]

Walker: Opposes large-scale privatization in any area. Says the first approach should be to make the system work better.

That gets to the larger issue, and this is something I told the unions when we interviewed, and knowing politically I wasn't going to have a shot with the endorsement, no matter whether before the primary or after. **But that I came in and said, ultimately, I want to try and make county government work. (I'm) not looking to sell off old divisions. I'm not looking to give away whole sections of what the county government does. I want to come in and try to first find a way to make it work . . .**Obviously, I think we have to continue the partnerships we already have, particularly in the delivery of social services with existing relationships. But I'm not looking to expand on any more.

[Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 5/13/2002]

County Responsibility Doesn't Include Being an "Employer"

A year of privatization proposals appears to lie ahead, as Walker hopes to retain the county's social services safety net without filling many of the employee vacancies created by this year's retirements. The number of retirements is spiking now as the pension deal fully kicks in for veteran workers. **"We're responsible for providing certain core functions and services, but our responsibility doesn't necessarily mean we're an employer,"** Walker said in an interview Monday afternoon.

[5/4/2004]

Privatization Schemes So Drastic Authors Not Standing Behind Them

Budget cuts proposed by Milwaukee County departments would end four county bus routes, raise fares \$100 a year for regular riders, close a downtown jail, basically wipe out indoor maintenance at the courthouse and County Grounds, and **outsource hundreds of county jobs to the private sector.** **Some of**

the suggestions are so drastic that their authors are either not standing behind them, or openly hoping they get shot down. But County Executive Scott Walker says that with a few exceptions, he will seriously consider the proposals and will investigate additional privatization on his own.
[Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 6/17/2006]

Privatize O'Donnell Parking Ramp

Other departments proposed hiring private firms to operate the O'Donnell Park parking ramp, concession stands in parks and the county fleet vehicle parts department. The O'Donnell ramp privatization idea evolved last year, after a trial balloon on selling it went nowhere. The outsourcing move would generate an estimated \$200,000 next year. Adding more concessions to un-specified parks would bring in \$20,000. And vendors at the Schulz Aquatic Center under construction at Lincoln Park would provide an estimated \$30,000.

[Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 7/28/2008]

Register of Deeds Outsourcing Planned

Also Monday, during its review of Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's 2010 budget, the County Board's finance committee agreed to an outsourcing move that will mean layoffs of four employees in the register of deeds office. The office plans to hire an outside firm to electronically file real estate documents, for a net savings of \$170,000. **The outsourcing is one of 10 privatization moves included in Walker's budget, which are expected to cut 207 jobs and save \$5.9 million.**

[Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 10/20/2009]

Walker's Privatization Would Primarily Lay Off African Americans

Also Monday, supervisors received a report that said 55% of the county employees being laid off because of job cuts in the 2010 budget are African-Americans. The 72 African-Americans are among 131 county workers losing their jobs because of privatizations and other cutbacks

[Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 12/21/2009]

Attempted to Privatize State Prisons

Walker proposes Assembly Bill amendment

Assembly Republicans approved a budget amendment that requires the Department of Administration to seek prison operation and management bids from private companies for a 500-bed prison facility. The state prison system could save millions per year in management costs under the measure, said Reps. Scott Walker (R-Wauwatosa) and Bonnie Ladwig (R-Racine), who authored the proposal.

[Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 7/9/1997]

Walker sponsors Assembly Bill for private prisons

Rep. Scott Walker (R-Wauwatosa), sponsor of the bill to let the state department contract with private prisons built in Wisconsin, said the legislation was necessary to provide more relief from crowding, not necessarily to save money. "The main impetus for this is capacity," Walker said. Although the new budget includes funding for 1,000 more prison beds, he said the department couldn't wait three years for a new prison or prisons to be completed.

[Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 12/9/1997]

Walker Re-introduces Assembly Bill to Allow Private Prisons

Rep. Scott Walker, R-Wauwatosa, said Monday he would introduce legislation in January to allow for the construction and operation of private prisons in Wisconsin. Walker said the industry leaders, Corrections Corporation of America of Nashville, Tenn. and the Wackenhut Corp. of Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. want to expand into Wisconsin.

[Associated Press, 12/8/1998]

Walker Re-introduces Assembly Bill (Again)

As an alternative, Rep. Scott Walker (R-Wauwatosa) is renewing a proposal to let the state send in-mates to private prisons built in Wisconsin, such as the 1,200-bed prison the Dominion Group is building in Stanley. Walker held out hope that some Milwaukee-area legislators opposed to more inmate transfers might reluctantly support his bill. Still, few people, if any, expect the Republican's measure to pass, not with the cold reception it got from Gov. Tommy G. Thompson and a Senate controlled by Democrats. [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 2/16/1999]

2010 Gubernatorial Run: Privatize DMV and Corrections

Walker also advocates widespread privatization of state agencies, saying everything from the Department of Motor Vehicles to correctional institutions should be considered. [Isthmus, 11/20/2009]

Months later flip-flops and tells corrections officer he would not privatize the state prison system

A correctional officer in the room asked if he would privatize the state's prison system, to which he said unequivocally "No." [Beaver Dam Daily Citizen, 04/06/2010]

Law Enforcement & Security

Walker has outsourced security operations for county buildings to contractors who have knowingly employed sexual predators as guards.

2008 Budget Includes Law Enforcement Privatization

A Milwaukee County Board committee on Tuesday rejected a plan by Sheriff David A. Clarke Jr. to privatize inmate transport services with a company in Nashville, Tenn. **Supervisors said the move hadn't been well thought out and should not have been included in County Executive Scott Walker's budget proposal. The finance committee voted 6-0 to reject the \$1.5 million privatization plan.** Though no contract had been awarded, Clarke based his savings projections on a TransCor bid to drive inmates from one lockup to another. Walker's budget lists a \$1.5 million cost to hire TransCor for the last 10 months of 2008.

[Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 10/17/2007]

Parks

The county parks system is in serious decline, needing over \$200 million to fix decrepid and dangerous conditions and overall decay. The county parks were once considered the "jewel" of the county and a source of pride for its citizens. Would state parks face the same fate if Walker becomes the next governor of Wisconsin

[A Tale of Two Systems, Committee on Finance & Audit, 12/2009]

Rather than Address Decline and Huge Structural Deficit, Walker Continues Push to Privatize Parks Operations

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker kept his foot to the floor on outsourcing as a solution to the county's financial woes, in his annual "state of the county" speech Tuesday. Walker called for privatizing courthouse security, airport operations and park maintenance - all ideas that he's broached before but that were rejected by the County Board. With the lingering recession and more pressing fiscal problems, Walker said he hoped the privatization plans get a better reception this year. "We will continue to

streamline county government by contracting out for services, consolidating departments and enhancing the use of technology," he said.
[Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/13/2010]

Mental / Behavioral Health

Despite all of the problems with the Behavioral Health Division and mental health services, deaths, rapes and neglect, Walker privatized services and cut staff **Privatize all county-run mental health services, inpatient and in the community**

And on a third key issue, **the panel rejected Walker's plan to fully privatize case management services for the mentally ill.** Walker's stated goal is to privatize all county-run mental health services, inpatient and in the community, starting in 2004.
[Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 10/25/2002]

Walker Moves to Move Mental Health Complex, Cut Jobs

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's plan to move the Mental Health Complex from the County Grounds in Wauwatosa to the vacant St. Michael Hospital on Milwaukee's north side would cost \$340 million over 25 years, a new study by Walker's administration says. Walker **said the county would try to transfer any workers who would lose their positions to other county jobs.**
[Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 3/14/2008]

Walker's Plan to Move Complex More Expensive

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's plan to move the Mental Health Complex to the vacant St. Michael Hospital got doused with cold water Monday.... **A new report recommended the plan should be rejected as too expensive.** The Walker estimate included savings from privatizing most mental health operations with a St. Michael move. The new report sets aside the issue of privatization, giving what it calls a fairer cost comparison.
[Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 7/15/2008]

288 Behavioral Health Division Workers Would Lose Jobs

The hospital jobs recommended for cutting would be outsourced, according to the Behavioral Health Division's budget request.
[Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 7/1/2008]

Outsourcing would result in lesser patient care

Walker's budget would privatize 222 county jobs, including housekeepers, mental health care workers...The outsourcing of more than three dozen nurse, social worker and therapist jobs at the Mental Health Complex **would likely result in less qualified people in those jobs and lesser patient care, said Stephanie Bloomingdale, of the Wisconsin Federation of Nurses.**
[Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 9/25/2009]

Food Service Privatization Resulting in Wrong Meals, Food Portions

Supervisors opposed to outsourcing said such moves in the past haven't worked out well, including this year's privatization of food service at the Mental Health Complex. **That move has led to complaints about food portions and some patients getting the wrong meals, said Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic.** The county should be cautious about turning over public jobs to for-profit companies, which may not provide the services with the same level of expertise and care, Dimitrijevic said.
[Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 11/10/2009]

Milwaukee County Zoo

Walker Proposes Privatizing 125 Zoo Workers

Operation of the Milwaukee County Zoo, one of the area's most popular attractions, would be spun off to a nonprofit company under a plan by County Executive Scott Walker. Walker said he wasn't **demanding that the 125 county employees at the zoo be privatized**, but noted that's something he wants the steering committee to consider.

[Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 9/21/2009]
