

Assembly

MINUTES OF MEETING - COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, 54th Session  
February 2, 1967

Meeting was called to order.

Present: Garfinkle, Getto, Webb, Foote, Prince, Espinoza and Wilson.

Absent: None.

Chairman Garfinkle introduced Mr. Burnell Larson, Superintendent of Public Instruction; John Blaikie, Chairman of the Textbook Commission; Bert Cooper, Consultant for Driver Education; and John R. Gamble, First Assistant Superintendent. He announced that they were present in connection with legislation recommended by the State Department of Education.

AB 90: Mr. Larson stated that the State Textbook Commission presently is limited in its function of selecting textbooks for use in public education because they meet only at specified times and can not properly analyze textbook material. He stated the intent of this bill would be to broaden the power to meet more frequently so that the great volume of information can be more fully analyzed. It also places in the State Department of Education a full time consultant to place textbooks for tryout which would enable individual school districts to lessen the load of evaluation and participate more fully in the overall program.

Mr. Blaikie who has been with the textbook commission for over seven years stated that at the present time there are over 900 items to evaluate and that it is presently an impossible task. The commission does not feel that it can presently do justice to this great volume. It is recommended that the State Board of Education have the responsibility to establish rules of procedure to make these evaluations. By adoption of this legislation the process of selection would be made more flexible and smaller areas of the state would derive the benefits from the work of evaluation. The bill has been approved by County Superintendents and by the State Board of Education. It has been under consideration for two years.

Mrs. Foote stated that in her discussion with various teachers the local levels had indicated that their recommended evaluations as submitted were never heard from.

Mr. Blaikie stated that the process whereby they would be heard will be established through the coordination this bill offers.

Mr. Larson stated that one person would be working to coordinate and follow-up the local evaluations.

Mr. Wilson inquired what the proper form for introducing material for consideration to the Commission.

Mr. Larson stated that ordinarily textbook publishers submit the offerings they have. Reading Series are introduced. The material has to be submitted to the commission according to present statute. This bill would change that procedure. Any material can be considered

and evaluation could be passed from one school district to another. The school districts would then have authority to go ahead and the State would have a man to coordinate. Presently there is a 4-year period involved. This bill would have provision which would leave it open to try new material for evaluation without the delaying process. 10

Mr. Prince asked whether the school districts have any choice after the evaluations are made.

This bill would open the procedure and anything on an adopted list would be available. Now evaluations must be made every four years. This bill would offer more flexibility. The prerogative remains with the school district.

Mr. Webb inquired what the cost of the additional consultant would be. The answer was an estimated \$15,000. It was further stated that magazines and publications are not under the areas for evaluation by the textbook commission as not being textbook material.

AB 88: This bill provides more equitable apportionments from the Automobile Driver Education Fund. Mr. Larson stated the bill would establish more efficient and equitable distribution of funds for driver education. Apportionment presently at the end of one semester is much less than at the end of a second semester because of delayed completions. This bill would equate the completions so that the funds correctly due the earlier semester completions would be available. Funds would be pro-rated per child per completions for the entire year's record.

Chairman Garfinkle asked if Mr. Cooper had anything further to add. There being none the meeting adjourned following announcement that on Friday, February 10 a joint meeting would be held with the Senate Finance and Assembly Ways and Means Committees in the Ways and Means Room to discuss Senator Hug's proposed bill.