

Assembly

MEETING OF COMMITTEE ON STATE, COUNTY AND CITY AFFAIRS
54TH NEVADA ASSEMBLY SESSION, MARCH 24, 1967

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Present: Hilbrecht, Smith, Dini, Bryan Hafen, Roy Young,
McKissick, Wooster.

Absent: Garfinkle, Tyson.

Chairman Hilbrecht convened the meeting at morning recess by introducing to the committee Assemblywoman Eileen Brookman and her husband, Engineer, George Brookman, both of whom wished to be heard on AB 307 and AB 470, construction industry bills.

Mrs. Brookman told the committee that she still was not satisfied that any proposed change in the structure of the State Contractors Board would effect the setting up of qualification examinations before licenses are granted to contractors. The present practice whereby qualification can be obtained by the mere filing of a licensing fee is detrimental to the State and to the industry, she said. She further stated that she opposed AB 470 on the basis that it was not the best method to solve the problem. Mr. Brookman supported his wife's presentation by relating how as a licensed contractor himself he had been hurt financially by the irresponsible licensing of unqualified persons. In regard to AB 470, he suggested that the committee consider staggering the terms of the Board members so that the membership could be given experienced continuity instead of as presently having a complete turnover, or lack of turnover, at a given time.

Mr. Wooster asked if they could specify what practices of the present board justified legislating into effect what could be administered into effect by the Board. He referred to the testimony of Mr. Rowland Oakes to the effect that examinations presently have been prepared and are being prepared but that they require time to be set up.

Mr. Brookman reiterated that the examination forms are readily available from other jurisdictions and should not require the time indicated by Mr. Oakes. He could answer only that the experience to date does not indicate that the problem is being met with the urgency that is needed. It was stated that 40% of the State income derives from the construction industry and that failure to assure qualified licensing procedures could be very injurious both to the State and the industry.

A discussion of possible "grandfather clause" stipulations to protect those presently licensed revealed that Mr. Brookman felt that a qualified contractor should have no objection to examination but that perhaps a criteria should be considered as a basis for such a clause.

Chairman Hilbrecht thanked them for their presentations and they were excused. He called the committee's attention to AB 345, the annexation bill, and the proposed amendments to it. He said that before the subcommittee considers the amendments he

would like the full committee's consensus. Discussion ensued during which Mr. Wooster asserted that the basic reason for AB 345 was to alleviate a condition in Clark County and that the other 16 counties were able to live with the present law. By passing AB 345 these other counties would be presented with additional operational difficulties to achieve what they can presently achieve without them. Mr. Curt Blyth of the Nevada Municipal Association admitted that the bill was inspired by the difficulty in Clark County wherein the County and the City are at a standstill whereby in effect annexation under the present law is virtually impossible. Hal Smith and Chairman Hilbrecht further outlined for the committee the specific instances in Clark County where this situation exists. Several highly urbanized sections of Las Vegas have been denied annexation to the city whereby they would have the fire and police protection which the county is unable to provide. Many of these sections have expressed themselves in favor of annexation to attain these services. The County denies them because of the loss of tax revenue that would result to the County. It has been estimated that 40% of the people live in urbanized areas actually a part of Las Vegas but physically excluded from the municipality under County control. These areas represent 60% of the tax evaluation.

The committee agreed to submit AB 345 to the legislative counsel for amendment making it applicable only to Clark County.

Chairman Hilbrecht told the committee that SB 240 broadening prison labor projects which the committee had indefinitely postponed due to reported conflict of the bill with other legislation had now been found to be workable if amended.

Smith moved SB 240 for reconsideration.

Young seconded.

Motion unanimously passed.

McKissick then moved SB 240 Do Pass with the amendment.

Young seconded.

Motion unanimously passed.

Mr. Hal Smith was asked to report on AB 459, the air pollution bill. He reported that AB 459 was a "do nothing" measure and that the bill being redrafted took the correct approach to the problem.

Smith moved AB 459 be indefinitely postponed.

Young seconded.

Motion unanimously passed.

The committee was asked to consider AB 444 and AB 445 which had been discussed in the hearing of March 22. It developed that the specifications set by the State Health Department for water were such that the Nevada Southern Water Project using Colorado River water from Lake Mead could never meet them because of mineral content. The committee felt that the bills were dangerous.

Young moved AB 444 and AB 445 be indefinitely postponed.
Dini seconded.
Motion passed with Wooster dissenting.

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Senator Gibson appeared before the committee with regard to AB 497 and SB 446 suggesting that the Senate and Assembly have a joint hearing on these bills. Hal Smith stated that next Thursday, March 30 had been suggested. It was agreed to set up such a hearing.

Hal Smith reported to the Committee on SB 412 proposing various amendments to the Henderson city charter. He said the amendments were simple expedients and outlined them.

SB 104 creating the Nevada state council of the arts was discussed. It developed that the bill does not involve funding and that it would allow for grants to be made in instances where an absence of an authorized state council would forbid such grants. Roy Young suggested that such a measure would open the door for later legislation that would demand funding.

Young moved SB 104 be indefinitely postponed.
Dini seconded.
Motion failed.

McKissick moved SB 104 Do Pass.
Smith seconded.
Motion passed with Young and Dini dissenting.

Roy Young asked for a minority report on this bill.

Roy Young said he would confer with the Controller on SB 421 and report back to the committee.

SB 419 was discussed and was developed as a validating act for contracts and conveyances made by the Colorado River Commission.

Young moved Do Pass SB 419.
Smith seconded.
Motion unanimously passed.

Action was deferred for later consideration on SB 418, 427 and 428.

Chairman Hilbrecht asked the committee to give consideration to AB 488, 490, and 492.

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.