

Assembly

SUMMARY OF HEARING CONDUCTED BY COMMITTEE ON STATE, COUNTY AND CITY AFFAIRS, 54TH NEVADA ASSEMBLY SESSION - APRIL 5, 1967

Chairman Hilbrecht opened the hearing in Room 43 following morning recess.

The subject for the hearing was SB 281: An Act relating to importation of bees; providing for a permit to store imported bees within the state for a period in excess of 6 months; providing a legislative finding and declaration relating to the ownership of pollinating agents, and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

The following people were present: (other than the committee members)

Assemblymen W. Swackhamer, Virgil Getto, Bode Howard, Tim Hafen, and Joe Viani.

A group of Nevada honey-growers represented by Elliot Lima, Lovelock; Walter Hall, Yerington; Earl Nygren and Wendell Wheat, Fallon.

Mr. Lee M. Burge, Executive Director, Nevada Department of Agriculture.
Mr. Harry E. Gallaway, Division of Plant Industry.

Assemblyman Swackhamer introduced to the committee as an expert witness, Mr. Dan Aten. Mr. Aten was identified as a Madeira, Calif. businessman who had become interested in Nevada bee-keeping through his association with the College of Agriculture in California of which he had served as Dean. He has invested in an area east of Battle Mountain and is engaged in bee-keeping in both California and Nevada. Mr. Aten outlined the conflict that has developed between those interested in bee-keeping for the pollinating uses bees serve and those whose primary interest is the production and marketing of honey.

Mr. Ralph Hall, member of the State Board of Agriculture from Yerington, father and partner of Mr. Walter Hall indicated above, stated that the last section of the proposed bill could serve no useful purpose.

Mr. Lima, also interested in the bee-keeping industry as a businessman and an associate of the College of Agriculture in Nevada, stated the honey-growers position.

The problems of importing bees to the state involve transportation costs, the control of diseased bees through importation, and other matters. The vital need of bees for the development of the seed industry in the State of Nevada was developed by emphasis on their essentiality to pollination. Assemblymen Tim Hafen, Bode Howard, and Bill Swackhamer presented this latter viewpoint and stated that in some of the more favorable climactic areas bees could be retained year-round and that ranchers could benefit by provisions allowing them to enter bee-keeping without reliance on commercial pollinization experts. Others stated that in no instance could successful pollinization be carried out without expert assistance.

Mr. Lee Burge stated that the conflicts over the bill seemed to

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arise from economic conflicts and would have to be resolved by the parties concerned. He stated that the State of Nevada has commitments from states other than California for the supply of bees. These states include Utah, Idaho and Montana.

There is developing also a leaf-cutter bee production in the State not associated with honey production but useful for pollinating purposes.

Chairman Hilbrecht thanked all of the people for appearing before the committee and adjourned the hearing.

He announced to the committee that there would be a committee meeting later this date in Room 32 following afternoon recess.