

Assembly

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE, 54TH SESSION

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Norman D. Glaser at 8:45 A.M. January 18, 1967 in Ways and Means Committee Room.

Present: Austin Bowler, Len Harris, Melvin (Bode) Howard, Lawrence Jacobsen, Geraldine Tyson, Don Mello, Norman Glaser

Absent: Keith Ashworth

Others present: Robert E. Bruce, Deputy Fiscal Analyst
 Press members - Tom Kennedy, Associated Press
 Jim Drennan, Gazette-Journal, Reno

Chairman Glaser announced the meeting was a preliminary one to lay down ground rules to be followed during the Session. He said operation would be on the same basis as that of the last Session with Mason's Manual being followed as to parliamentary procedure. He said the rules would be relatively simple with no formal type of operation. Of the nine member committee, six will constitute a quorum. Motions will be moved, seconded and passed by a simple majority of the entire committee. In order to reconsider previous action, an affirmative vote of 2/3 of the committee, or 6 members, will be required. He instructed the Secretary to type up rules for each member. It was asked that conversation be conducted through the Chair so as to eliminate confusion.

Chairman Glaser introduced Committee members, Secretary and others present. He then discussed Avis "We Try Harder" buttons given each member, saying the implication is that Ways and Means is one of the major committees of the Legislature and he does not believe the Senate Finance Committee is No. 1. Even though seasoned hands have been lost because of reapportionment, he feels with hard work Ways and Means will surpass them.

Chairman Glaser said some agency or department would be scheduled to appear before the Committee every day. These schedulings will be posted on the blackboard. He discussed importance of committee members studying budgets and becoming familiar with the next day's assignment. He wrote the words "Parsimony" and "Profligacy" on the board and discussed their meanings in regard to budgeting, saying legislators must consider both extremes, one far to the left, the other far to the right. He stressed constantly searching for ways to cut costs while retaining efficiency.

(Keith Ashworth called at 8:55 and was told to meet the Committee at the University in Reno at 10:00 A.M.)

Discussion by Chairman Glaser as to the Committee's being able to better look at some of the budget with an eye to eliminating some existing programs than would be the Governor or others who must deal with problems politically. He said the Committee may want to add programs that the Governor does not have in the budget, but because of the fixed income, if something is added, something will also have to be taken away. He said he felt the Senate Finance Committee has been more parsimonious, cutting flatly without understanding and hurting agencies. He said he was encouraged by the composition of the committee and advised them to use "horse sense" in times of confusion.

Chairman Glaser announced that the last of the week would be devoted principally to field trips and that work would be finished by noon Thursday so members who wanted to leave that afternoon could, as there would be no session Friday. He said that Monday and Tuesday of next week would be used to look at some of the capital improvement programs within reach of the Capitol. Inasmuch as not much can be done until the Governor presents the budget, some of these basic things can be gotten out of the way. As long as the University has its own budget, he said they could look at it. Also on the agenda for this morning's visit to the University will be examination of some of the buildings constructed in the last two years. Chairman Glaser he said an attempt would be made to get the feel of the situation, to learn a little about scheduling and get an idea of how crowded they are.

Chairman Glaser said there are three major areas of Committee work:

1. Reviewing the budget and requests of the agencies.
2. Capital improvement program.
3. Bills to be reviewed by the Committee from the Assembly or Senate to be reported out on the floor.

Chairman Glaser asked for questions. Mr. Harris brought up subject of Inaugural Ball in Las Vegas Jan. 28th and members who would like to go.

Mr. Jacobsen told of offer of Harvey's Wagon Wheel at Lake Tahoe to have a group of Committee members come up some afternoon around 3:30, at which time personnel of the Casino would show them the money rooms and the entire Casino operation, explaining procedure. In view of the fact that gaming problems will come up, Chairman Glaser thought this was a good idea and said maybe before Wednesday of next week members could go.

Discussion of fact Austin Bowler is also on Taxation Committee and possibility of conflict of meetings. Chairman Glaser announced he would try to meet every day at the same time, 1:30 or 2:00 P.M., as this seems to be only period when two or three hours at a time may be utilized.

Guy Farmer of TV Station KCRL took pictures.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:14 A.M.

Norman D. Glaser, Chairman

Agnes M. Nelson,
Committee Stenographer