

Assembly

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE, 54TH SESSION

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Norman D. Glaser at 2:02 P.M. in Room 43, March 1, 1967.

Present: Harris, Young, Tyson, Mello, Glaser, Howard, Jacobsen (2:09),
Ashworth (2:05)

Absent: Bowler,

Also present, Bob Bruce, Fiscal Analyst; Howard Barrett, Budget Office;
Wilson McGowan, State Controller; Rudy Marino, Accountant,
State Controller's Office and Gene Phelps of the Budget Office.

Chairman Glaser announced there would be no meetings of the Committee as a whole for the rest of the week, but asked that the Sub-Committees work on their reports and get them in by next week.

Purpose of the meeting was to hear Controller McGowan present his budget needs. He read from a sheet passed out to the Committee, "Proposed Changes For Controller's Office," in which the accounting system and other phases of the operation were discussed. To make full use of the IBM Computer, there must be a man capable of doing the work. He discussed positions, most of which were similar to that in the old budget. Chairman Glaser asked if what he needed was only about \$400.00 more roughly. Answer in affirmative. The chairman asked if Dat Processing Center comes into being, whether it will be integrated into that, was told it will be. He said they have had their machine eight or 10 years but it has never been used to capacity. Said in essence it becomes sort of a data processing center for some of the agencies. It is being used to possibly 35% of maximum now, should be used at at least 70%.

Mr. Barrett said after the main center comes in, there would be a machine in the Controller's office that would communicate with the main computer and that money for equipment is now entirely in this budget. He said it has been worked out, part in here and part in data processing. Where other agencies use, will take out of data processing.

Mr. McGowan said he wanted both money committees to be aware that he has already hired a man at \$11,000 to carry on for the time until this budget goes into effect, as there was sufficient money in the budget to take care of his salary. He felt he should go ahead and get the program to work, didn't want them to feel he was being arbitrary about it.

Mr. Barrett said he is putting in an accounting bill he would like to have Ways and Means Committee introduce. It was worked up by the Controller's Office, his office and Norman Terrell's office. He had one copy of the bill, which he gave to the Chairman. The bill modernizes State's Accounting System. Mr. Jacobsen moved the Committee introduce the bill, second by Mr. Harris. Motion carried.

Mrs. Tyson out 2:18, back 2:25.

Mr. Barrett said the reason Mr. McGowan was making a point out of this is that they do not normally because of legislative intent add a position or change an unclassified salary.

Mr. Young moved, second by Mr. Howard that the Committee has been appraised of State Controller's hiring a licensed accountant at \$11,000 in the 1966-67 biennium and that sufficient funds are available to pay his salary within the present operating budget. Motion carried.

Mr. McGowan finished his presentation.

Bob Davenport, Clerk of Supreme Court, had asked to be heard again on SB 77, a bill which the Ways and Means Committee had tabled. He felt there had been a lack of communication and said the main reasons for the supplemental needs are set forth in Page one of the December 30, 1966 letter from him to Mr. Barrett, a copy of which was given to Committee members. Discussion of telephone, printing and other costs. He said they had asked for \$2904, Counsel Bureau added \$1,000, however they don't actually need \$1,000 there, need \$443 so could get by with \$3,338. Discussion of Xerox charges, .10 a sheet.

Mr. Davenport finished his presentation at 2:35.

Bob Bruce passed out a schedule made on distributive school fund. He said Mr. Ashworth had made a request for a study of the appropriation request for books at the University, State Library, etc. He had gone into this.

Chairman Glaser discussed Mr. Tom Buckman's approaching different members of the Committee because of his dissatisfaction on action on SB 164. Mr. Buckman felt the Senate did not give a fair hearing. Ken Buck felt SB 164 not actuarially sound. Mr. Buckman wanted Ways and Means to re-introduce it. Suggested just change jacket on it. Decided to have Mr. Buckman and Mr. Buckman appear before the Committee next week. Bob Bruce reminded Committee there is another bill requiring the quarterly amount paid by employees for retirement raised 1%. Mr. Barrett said another bill was introduced to raise contribution another 1/4%. Would cost state 160,000; employees 160,000 for this, mostly for teachers' retirement.

Chairman Glaser said he would like to bring up another matter, Homemakers' program in Welfare running out of funds. Don Mello has had a supplemental bill drafted for \$15,000 to get them by until July 1. Mrs. Tyson said she had talked to Senator Fisher about it and asked if it covered five counties, which it does. Concensus of opinion it is a good program, the counties think enough of it that they (commissioners) would probably come up with \$5,000 to keep it going. Looked on Page 257, under contract Services. Mr. Mello said it had to pass both houses and the Governor by March 15, if he feels it will pass will extend date, otherwise can't. Mrs. Tyson moved that the Committee put this bill in as a Committee Bill and re-refer to Committee. Second by Mello. Motion carried. Will be matching funds 2 to 1. Decided would have Quentin Emory back on this if necessary.

3/1/67

Page 3

Barrett
Mr. Barrett said that ordinarily he confined himself to just answering questions, but that there has been so much play in the newspapers he would like to tell the Committee what has happened when they made estimate as to Distributive School Fund, they assumed the Department of Education had paid out all of the monies for the last year by August 1 and so used the amount of money left in the fund after August 1 to carry into this year. On November 4 the Department of Education paid out of this fund for last year in this year so the estimate was high by this \$495,000 and it can be called an error. They would have checked with department to see if this was the final figure, but as it always has been in the past they assumed it would be the same.

Mrs. Tyson moved the Committee adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:00 P.M.

Norman D. Glaser, Chairman
Ways and Means Committee

Agnes M. Nelson, Committee Stenographer



Nevada Legislature

FIFTY-FOURTH SESSION

March 1, 1967

James F. Wittenberg, Personnel Administrator
Nevada State Personnel Division
Carson City, Nevada

Dear Jim:

On February 28, the Ways and Means Committee of the Assembly of the Nevada State Legislature made a tour of the State Hospital Facilities in Sparks and met with the registered nurses of that institution regarding salary schedules.

In our discussion with the nurses, we indicated that the proposed salary increase of 20%, as you recommended, would be forthcoming, subject of course, to the approval of Senate Finance and the Legislative body. The effective date of the salary increase seemed to be the major area of concern to the Committee.

Regardless of whether the effective date is February 1, April 1, or July 1, I would like to have you re-evaluate the starting salaries for registered nurses in the Reno area. It was brought to our attention that the Washoe Medical Center is considering a base salary of \$7,200.00 for 1967. If this is the case, could you re-appraise the base salary for the Nevada State Hospital, effective as of July 1, 1967.

It was also moved, seconded and passed by the Ways and Means Committee, while in conference with the nurses, that a program be initiated for annual salary review. Could you take this up with the Personnel Board at the first available opportunity and devise a plan to bring this into effect, bearing in mind of course, that the Legislature meets on a bi-annual basis, which would take special consideration for funding. The date of implementation of any salary changes should be made as close to the date of salary review as possible, perhaps the first of the year.

To do this will require some policy change on the part of the Personnel Department and deliberation by the Legislature. However, it is not too soon for us to start to move in this direction. If I may be of any further assistance in exploring these suggestions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Norman D. Glaser, Chairman
Ways and Means Committee

NDG:amn
cc: Dr. McAllister, Nevada State Hospital
M. Kay Murphy, R. N. Nevada State Hospital