

SENATE COMMITTEE ON
FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Minutes of Meeting Held
March 2, 1967
11:00 a. m.

The 14th meeting of the Senate Committee on Federal, State, and Local Governments was called to order at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 2, 1967, in Committee Room 56, State Capitol, by Chairman Gibson.

Committee members present were: Senator Gibson, Chairman
Senator Alleman
Senator Hecht
Senator Farr

Absent: Senator Monroe
Senator Bunker
Senator Young

Also present: Mr. Clay Lynch, City Manager of North Las Vegas.

The undersigned, secretary for the committee, arrived shortly after the meeting began, at which time Mr. Lynch was discussing, in connection with S.B. 170, a particular bonding problem in North Las Vegas. This was an extension of the discussion of this bill at the committee meeting held earlier today.

No action was taken on the bill by the committee.

The Chairman next called for discussion of:

S.B. 193: Authorizes political subdivisions to pay 100% of cost of premiums for public employees' group insurance and medical services. Introduced by Senator Alleman.

This was described as permissive legislation and would not constitute an obligation on the part of the political subdivision to pay 100% of premiums.

At 11:05 a.m., Curt Blyth of the Nevada Municipal Association arrived, and took part in the discussion on this bill. He opposed the bill, because he said his association felt it would lead to pressure from employee groups for increased employer premium payments. He said he has talked with insurance company representatives about employer-employee contributions and that such representatives favor partial premium payments by the employees. They claim if the employer pays the total cost of premiums, the employees "use the insurance to death." Senator Farr commented that in Sparks the city pays 100% of the premiums, but that the policy does not provide total coverage of all medical and hospital expenses; hence, employees are not likely to incur unnecessary expenses. Furthermore, he pointed out that some insurance carriers are more satisfactory than others.

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Senator Hecht commented that he had received communications from persons in Boulder City and in Las Vegas who strongly oppose the bill. Curt Blyth stated the City of Reno also opposes the bill. He said the Nevada Municipal Association has 10 participating cities in its insurance program, which is carried with Republican Life Insurance Company.

Mr. Lynch suggested an amendment to the bill to provide that, instead of 100%, "all or any part" of the premium might be contributed by the employer. Senator Alleman said he would be willing to have the bill amended in that manner.

Disposition: No action was taken on the bill.

The Chairman stated the committee would meet at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 7, in a joint meeting with the Assembly Committee on State, City, and County Affairs, to conduct a hearing on the Colorado River Commission bills (Senate Bills 303 and 305). He asked the members to study these bills before that time.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Glover - Secretary

I certify that the foregoing minutes are correct.

Senator James I. Gibson - Chairman