

MINUTES OF MEETING - ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, SPECIAL SESSION, February 20, 1968

Meeting was called to order at 10:50 A.M. by Chairman White.

Present: White, Petrini, Dungan, Schouweiler, Torvinen, Lowman, Kean

Absent: Swackhamer, Hilbrecht

ACR 14: Directs Legislative Commission study of problem of illegal narcotic and drug use.

MR. WHITE: This is a very short resolution and I believe a good one.

MR. LOWMAN: I move Do Pass

MISS DUNGAN: Just a minute. The word was passed on to me that the University of Nevada is making such a study right now and they have the funds for it. I would recommend that we send something along with this to the Commission suggesting that they investigate to see what the University is doing about it. They have the funds and they have the solution to the school problems.

MR. KEAN: Seconded Miss Dungan's suggestion, and Mr. Lowman's motion.

Motion on the suggestion passed unanimously

Motion to give ACR 14 Do Pass passed unanimously

MR. WHITE asked the secretary of the committee to draft the note to be given to Senator Gibson concerning the University of Nevada Study on Narcotics.

MR. WHITE asked Mr. TORVINEN to discuss with the committee the three new bills that have been drawn up to replace AB 7.

AB 21: Provides for transfer of mentally retarded children to cottage facilities.

MR. TORVINEN: This bill says that the administrator of Mental Hygiene should make arrangements for admittance of mentally retarded children to the cottages, or group type care facilities. Carl Harris says he needs this, but there is some doubt about its being needed by others.

MR. KEAN moved Do Pass AB 21

MISS DUNGAN: Couldn't we wait until it is printed and have it checked? Every bill ought to have the chance to be printed.

MR. KEAN: In the interest of getting out this week-end let's deviate from the usual procedure and pass it out now.

Mr. Schouweiler seconded Mr. Kean's motion to Do Pass AB 21

Motion passed unanimously

AB 19: Amends financial and commitment provisions relating to mental illness.

MR. TORVINEN: This bill relates to committing people and to payments for their care.

AB 7 had a number of sections relating to general care and treatment, etc. None of them have anything to do with the primary purpose of the changes so they were left out. They were put in by Grayson as clean-up measures and they did not need to be in here this session.

MR. WHITE: Does this bill overcome the objections that people had to AB 7?

MR. LOWMAN: Yes, we covered all points brought forward by Nevada Southern Memorial Hospital. We have a call in to Petroni right now to check with him. Dr. Schwartz says "too little facilities" but we have overcome his other objections.

MR. TORVINEN: We generally overlooked the objections of the Clark County D.A.'s office. If the D.A.'s find it is impossible we can change it at the next session.

MR. WHITE: If anyone has more objections, it will go back to the subcommittee for further study.

MISS DUNGAN: The Attorney General issued an opinion stating that the hospital could not receive certain kinds of funds and this is what we want to talk to Petroni about. We want to do something so that they can accept these monies. Insurance policies - about 50% provide for in-patient care and 25% for out-patient care. We want our hospital to be able to accept this money.

MR. TORVINEN: A cursory opinion is that this bill covers the situation. The whole bill, starting with page 6, deals with payments.

MR. WHITE: Miss Dungan, go ahead and get an opinion from Petroni on this.

MR. SCHOUWEILER: We can go across the street and get an opinion.

AB 20: Provides for detention and treatment of insane criminals at Nevada State Prison.

MR. TORVINEN: This bill provides all provisions that were in AB 7 pertaining to commitment of criminally insane, either before or after conviction. It is a supplement to present law. This transfers the criminally insane from the State Hospital to the State Prison and provides, page 6, that the salary limit on physicians has been increased. Miss Dungan says the Senate Finance Committee will only change this to certified physicians in the psychiatric field. This provision is to enable us to spend money we have to hire psychiatrists. In the area of \$25,000 we can hire some more people.

MISS DUNGAN: Russ McDonald asked Mr. Daykin to research this. Part of it means the money is not going back at the end of the year. There would be no reversion at the end of the year.

If you are in a classified position you would be getting as much money as the head of the department. Specifically it must spell out how much money he can get. There is \$28,000 right now in those positions. We only need \$23,000 in order to do this - to get these three men.

MR. TORVINEN: Mr. Daykin told me he could justify it by the criminally insane needing care.

MR. WHITE: We are in the position where we have to make a psychiatric staff available at the prison or build facilities at the hospital.

I should like to suggest that this committee visit the prison and see what facilities are available there for the criminally insane, also their policy with regard to these people.

MR. KEAN: I move we make such a visit.

Mr. LOWMAN: Seconded the motion

Motion passed unanimously

MISS DUNGAN: There is one psychiatrist comes out to the prison one day a week under a federal grant and this is the money that will be gained.

MR. LOWMAN: I think it is wise for the committee to go out, along with the press, in view of the adverse publicity the prison has been getting.

MISS DUNGAN: Are we talking about the "whole prison" as the Institutions Committee is?

MR. KEAN: We really should go this afternoon, in view of the little time left.

MISS DUNGAN: I would like to have Dr. Brown along with us. He is supposed to call me before noon and we can ask him if he can arrange to go with us.

MR. SCHOUWEILER: What about tomorrow, if he can't go today?

MISS DUNGAN: This is important enough for us to see the facilities but we should have him go along.

MR. WHITE: How about 8:00 in the morning? That will give the subcommittee this afternoon to work on the other part of AB 19 - the money part.

MISS DUNGAN: It seems to me that we passed a law that sex offenders could not be released until they finished their treatment but we did not provide for psychiatric treatment. We should say this.

Final arrangements for the visit to the prison was for the committee to meet in the lobby of the City Center Motel in Carson City at 8:00 A.M. Wednesday morning, Feb. 21 so they could team up on transportation.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:15 A.M.