

NEVADA LEGISLATURE - SPECIAL SESSION

JOINT MEETING OF
SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

February 7, 1968

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. in the Ways and Means Room of the Capitol Building.

All members of the Senate Finance Committee, Ways and Means Committee, Senate Education Committee and Assembly Education Committee were present.

Also present: Burnell Larson, Chairman, Governor's Council on Vocational-Technical Education
Dr. Thomas Tucker, Director of Study
Mr. Eugene Voris, President, Nevada Community College at Elko
Mike Marfisi, Spokesman for the Community College Committee
Albert Seeliger, Board of Regents, University of Nevada
Neil Humphrey, Acting President, University of Nevada
Louis Paley, Labor representative
James Butler, Nevada Education Development Council
Ed Miller, Chancellor, University of Nevada
Dr. Collette, Member of School Board of Elko
Mrs. Nicholson, Chairman, League of Women Voters
Members of the Press

The meeting concerned AB 3, an Act establishing Elko Community College as a pilot project for community colleges, directing further study of their feasibility, and appropriations thereto.

Mr. Burnell Larson furnished the background of this Act. He stated on September 5, 1968, the Governor established a State Council to study the state's need in vocational education. The Council would be responsible for developing a feasibility study, and determining the need for 13th and 14th years of school. There would be the possibility of using Elko Community College as a pilot program. The Governor stated that should

the Council find vocational technical schools or community colleges warranted, the study would also lend itself to further development in the high schools. The Council contacted employers and researched the matter after funds were authorized for the interim study, and on January 4, their recommendations resulted in Assembly Bill No. 3.

Dr. Thomas Tucker was the next speaker. He said there were 55 courses offered, and said the money had been gained through fees charged and from donations. The people of Elko raised \$45,000 with 500 making donations. He mentioned that Nevada was the only state in the Union without a Community College. He stated that Nevada was badly in need of this intermediate course of education. He stated that the cost of not educating is more than the cost of educating, citing the Job Corps as an example. The Community College fills the gap created by high schools not being able to fill the need with Adult Education courses, nor the University being able to help those in lower economic levels, or the unemployed. Out of 100% of the high school graduates attending the University, only 50% ever finish. He stated we have an obligation to provide education for these and for others who have not been able to get skilled training in the high school, yet cannot go on to the University. Dr. Tucker spoke of attracting industry, citing Arkansas as an example. He said he foresees the time when an able-bodied welfare recipient must go to school and learn a trade. Also, vocational technical education may be tied in with people receiving unemployment checks.

Mr. Larson spoke primarily on equipment and material needed to be purchased for the Community College. He mentioned \$17,500 is needed to go ahead with a state-wide feasibility project.

A report, "The Nevada Community College in Elko" by the Governor's State Council on Community Colleges and/or Vocational-Technical Centers was distributed to members of the Committees.

The question was asked whether the courses could be transferred for college credit, to which Mr. Tucker answered they could under the University extension. He was asked whether the college operates from 4:00 p.m. in the High School Building, to which he replied, "Yes." However, he stated there were vacant structures in Elko which could be utilized.

In answer to Senator Gibson's question as to the objectives of the pilot program, Dr. Tucker said it would determine the feasibility of phasing in the cluster approach to vocational educational training.

Senator Hug asked Mr. Larson if it is the intent of the people of Elko to keep supporting this college, to which he replied they would be glad to do so, if possible, but do not find it possible at present.

Mr. Voris then spoke on the Community College aspect, explaining the purpose of the Elko College when formed. (1) Beginnings of five basic 2-year vocational technical programs (2) Beginnings of a 2-year general education offering geared to the post secondary level and (3) Working in the area of adult education. He stated besides the regular courses, there was some community work, such as trying to upgrade service stations and other businesses with better prepared attendants.

He stated that 430 people enrolled in the fall quarter, and 520 people so far in this quarter, but was expecting some 600 by the time the enrollment came to a close.

He also gave a breakdown in answer to Senator Gibson's query on enrollments: 143 - Business and Office; 78 - Agriculture and Industry; 33 - Engineering; 24 - Economics; 34 - Law Enforcement; 124 - General Education; 69 - Adult Education. The Dean and Mr. Voris are the only full-time members of the staff, he stated. He also stated that fully half of the enrolled members come from outside the community, some of them driving as far as 60 miles per day.

Mr. Marfisi of Elko spoke on the community effort there, stating that it all started in an effort to bring industry into the area, as small businesses are inclined to come in where there is better education. He stated also that the Community College would fill the gap that no one can deny is there between high school and the University. He stated businessmen from Elko had made a trip to Oregon to study a community college and had followed the example of what they found there.

Mr. Albert Seeliger said the Board of Regents offered their full cooperation to this project, and feels Elko is a fine community, and stated that within the areas of responsibility clearly defined, they do not, as Regents, see any problem.

Neil Humphrey, Acting President of the University of Nevada, stated that the University offers its cooperation to the Community College by contracting with the college board to offer University courses as part of the program, and stated the University does have sufficient authority to offer these programs.

Mr. Paley, representative of Labor, offered the backing of Labor, since most employers now want college instruction in their apprentices. The Community College would fill this. He asked that the Committees present support the Bill.

Mr. Butler spoke for the Nevada Educational Council. He stated that when the Governor created the Community College Council, he asked them to report not only to him but to the Committee and

asked for their recommendation. He stated as a result of all of the discussion of the Council, they voted unanimously to support this legislation. He stated he thought there should be findings based on a study that the Committee can look at when it is completed, that will have merit.

Mr. Homer stated that 45 states had arrived at the conclusion that it is more successful to operate this separate and apart from the University or the Board of Education. It is completely successful in the total betterment of control. He asked \$25,000 for Carson Community College and stated the study could include which would be the better way to operate.

Dr. Collette stated the School Board in Elko is really enthused about the vocational training. She said they had known in Elko for a long time that education there was inadequate, and they are quite excited about the college and improved counseling.

Mrs. Nicholson spoke for the League of Women Voters, supporting a study for this year only. She stated the need was here for this type of education, but that more information was needed before the League of Women Voters would support the College indefinitely.

Mr. Glaser spoke as a student enrolled in the College. He is very enthusiastic about it, stating that students drive as far as sixty miles one way, sometimes twice a week, to attend. A four-year type of college was not intended, he said, and predicted the present college would grow into an intermediary level of excellence for students who are not University type.

Respectfully submitted,


Viola R. Bonawitz - Secretary


Floyd R. Lamb - Chairman