

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

and

JOINT SENATE/ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON COMMERCEMEETING MINUTES

Date: Thursday, February 20, 1969

Committee Members Present:           Senator White, Chairman  
   Senator Hecht  
   Senator Titlow

Mr. Wood  
 Mr. Mello  
 Mr. Capurro  
 Mr. T. Hafen  
 Mr. Torvinen  
 Mr. Bowler  
 Mr. Espinoza

Committee Members Absent:           Senator Lamb  
   Senator Swobe

Others Present: Mr. Ralph Harman, Vegas Village Corp., Las Vegas

Chairman White called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

The chairman announced that before starting the discussion on S.B. 195, of interest to the Joint Committee, he would like to take up with the Senate Commerce Committee members present S.B. Nos. 37 and 141.

S.B. No. 37 - Requires state and political subdivisions to purchase insurance through licensed resident agents. (Introduced by Senator Titlow.)

Action: Do pass as amended. Senator Titlow was assigned to speak on the bill when it comes up on General File.

S.B. No. 141 - Prohibits use of state seal for illegal purposes. (Introduced by Committee on Commerce)

Action: Committee voted to hold action until a later date.

S.B. No. 195 - Provides for grading and marketing of poultry. (Introduced by Committee on Commerce.)

In introducing discussion on this proposed legislation, Senator White gave a brief resume of the poultry marketing policy followed in Nevada as opposed to the restrictions that obtain in Utah. In Utah no poultry may be sold unless it has been graded and the grade must be stamped on the package where the poultry is displayed for sale. There is no grading law in Nevada, which conceivably permits selling inferior poultry as top quality.

The chairman then introduced Mr. Ralph Harman, who is associated with Vegas Village Corporation. Vegas Village Corporation is a supermarket operator in the Las Vegas area.

Mr. Harman said his company had researched various poultry suppliers with reference to poultry grading. While poultry is USDA Inspected, this really means little. It is the grading of the fowl that is important. He then named the three grades that apply - A, B, and C - and defined the specifications for each grade. For demonstration, he displayed a dressed chicken of each grade.

Utah restrictions require that newspaper advertisements on poultry carry the grade of the poultry being advertised. No such requirement applies in Nevada. (He showed the committee various ads from Utah and Las Vegas papers to substantiate his statement.) Because of rigid restrictions applying in Utah to the sale of C grade poultry, Mr. Harman said he felt that Las Vegas - and Reno, too, probably - was becoming the "dumping ground" for poor quality poultry from both Utah and the southern states.

After questioning from Mr. Bowler, Mr. Harman said he would guess that perhaps 20% of the poultry marketed in Las Vegas comes from Utah, but added that southern growers sell C grade poultry in southern Nevada, because they can't market it in Utah.

Mr. Capurro asked if C grade fowl could be marketed in Utah if the carcasses were cut up and preheated to a minimum of 140°. Mr. Harman answered in the affirmative.

Senator White commented that he felt some Nevada markets purchased an inferior quality poultry to use as a "leader" in their ads and said he felt adoption of legislation similar to Utah's would serve as a protection to the buying public.

Mr. Bowler then asked Mr. Harman if it was his feeling that enactment of S.B. 195 would serve two purposes - 1) it would keep inferior product out of Nevada and 2) it would give the public knowledge of what they are buying. Mr. Harman said, "Yes."

Senator Hecht asked if implementation of this legislation would create an expense. Senator White said he would anticipate some initial expense, but he also felt that later the merchandisers would probably "police" themselves.

To a question from the committee, Mr. Harman said he did not know what California's legislation was in this area.

The chairman thanked Mr. Harman for his comments and then adjourned the meeting at 10:50 A.M.

Approved:

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Marvin L. White