

Senate

COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Minutes of Meeting -- March 28, 1969

The thirty-second meeting of the Committee on Federal, State and Local Governments was held on March 28th, 1969, at 3:30 P.M.

Committee members present: James Gibson, Chairman
 Warren Monroe
 Chic Hecht
 Carl F. Dodge
 F. W. Farr

Others present were:

Eileen Brookman	Assemblyman
Woodrow Wilson	Assemblyman
Jerry Furr	Chairman, Equal Rights of Citizens (E.R.C.)
Eddie Scott	Sparks, E.R.C.
Ollie Westbrook	Black Springs
Howard Gloyd	N.A.A.C.P., Reno
John Fransway	Senator
Mr. Brookman	

Press representatives

Chairman Gibson called the meeting to order.

AB-353 Proposed by Mr. Wilson.
 Enacts open housing law.

Mr. Wilson spoke and reminded the committee that this bill had passed through the Assembly a few days ago. He noted that this bill was to provide Nevada with an open housing bill tailored to the needs of the state and guidelines of the federal act had been used. He said that with the amendments that had been added to this bill, it was felt that this piece of legislation would adequately do the job for those who have been restricted due to the fact that housing has not been available to them because of race, religion, creed, color or natural origin. The drafters of the bill have tried to bring the bill up to date, so that as of December 31st of this year, it will be in line with the federal act. He stated that knowing what the problems are and the tenor of these present times -- particularly in the predominantly Negro community -- it was hoped that this body of the legislature would pass this in this session.

Mr. Furr spoke of the interest of the E. R. C. in this bill -- adding that Clark County in particular, and Nevada in general needs fair housing legislation, due to racial tensions. He called the committee's attention to the fact that in any legislation of this nature, the E.R.C. is eventually charged with enforcement. He stressed the importance of funding to enable the E.R.C. to be provided

with the "tools" to enforce the housing act. If such funding were not available, he stated it was the unanimous opinion of the Commission that there should be no bill. The reason for this is that if the E.R.C. found themselves with this responsibility and without the capacity to effectively enforce it, then racial tension that they are seeking to eliminate would further be thwarted by making it impossible for a Nevadan to have immediate redress to the federal statute which would have means and tools for effective implementation. He added that the Commission felt a Nevada bill would be better than relying on the federal bill, because they felt they could meet the responsibility in a way that would guarantee every Nevada citizen this constitutional right. He urged that the Committee support AB-353 and secure appropriate funding so the E.R.C. can administer it. He again stressed that failure to pass this open housing act in this session would create racial tension of a magnitude as yet unimagined. Upon committee questioning, Mr. Furr stated that he actually didn't know how much money was going to be necessary to fund this -- perhaps \$100,000. The justification for that much money was questioned by several committee members and Mr. Furr traced some of the needs, clerical, legal, et cetera.

Assemblyman Brookman spoke briefly, limiting her testimony largely to the reading of the attached statement.

Mr. Scott detailed his objections to the bill, stating that he felt it was not adequate as far as language was concerned and that his group felt there should be amendments added to it -- if it were to be used. Mr. Gloyd said he felt the bill was vague and that many things were not spelled out in it. There was some committee discussion regarding this and in rebuttal Mr. Wilson said he felt that if additional "words" (amendments) were added, they would, in fact, not add anything.

At this point, there was discussion regarding AB-693.

AB-693 Proposed by Messrs. McKissick and Close (By Request).
Prohibits discrimination in the sale or rental of housing.

Mrs. Brookman spoke in opposition to this bill, stating that she felt AB-353 was the best of the two bills. Chairman Gibson spoke of specific amendments to this bill and there was committee discussion in this regard.

Mr. Gloyd said that he didn't believe anyone intended killing SB-353 -- but asked why Mr. Wilson, Furr, et al, were resistant to being more specific in the language. He stated that if the bill came out with such vague detailing, it would only cause more frustrations, burnings, et cetera. At this point, Mr. Wilson again spoke strongly in favor of the bill and felt that the language could be enforced.

Chairman Gibson asked both groups why it was necessary to have a state statute, if the federal statute was satisfactory. Mr. Gloyd said he felt that the state had an obligation to its people and that the state should not wait for enforcement from the federal government, or anyone else. He feels that this state

should take a stand and handle the situation ourselves. Mr. Scott added that he felt we did not need a state law, if the state cannot pass a law that is better than the federal law because it is more specific. Otherwise, he said, we would be better off with the federal act as it stands than to minimize the federal act with the state act. This would cause friction. After further discussion, Mrs. Brookman stated that she felt the federal law would actually be expedited, if we had a state law as well.

Mr. Scott stated that he would submit suggested amendments by Monday. Senator Farr asked Mr. Scott if they could live with the bill as it now stands without amendments and the answer was negative.

SB-483 Proposed by Committee on Federal, State and Local Governments.
Removes conflict between city charter amendments concerning
municipal securities.

This bill has been discussed in committee previously. There was brief discussion. Senator Monroe moved Do Pass, seconded by Senator Dodge. Vote was unanimous for passage.

SB-47 Proposed by Committee on Federal, State and Local Governments.
Amends provisions concerning electric light and power, sanitary
sewers and water in unincorporated cities, towns.

Senator Dodge moved that this bill be held indefinitely, seconded by Senator Hecht. Vote was unanimous for this action.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia F. Burke

Patricia F. Burke,
Committee Secretary

My dear Mr. Speaker and Fellow Colleagues:

I would like to have my "remarks " put in the Journal of this legislative day. It was the great dream of all our forefathers who came to this United States to flee from whence they came because of being oppressed; not having their right of practicing their freedom of religion - being subservient to other men - and only because they had the foresight to come here. I might remind each and every one of my colleagues - that is why we are here - all except the great American Indian who was here first.

It is most unfortunate that the dream did not actually work out. As our great constitution says - that " All Men Are Created Equal". We have unfortunately not granted this right to every citizen in the land. Again - I use the word "unfortunate" - it takes legislation like this on Open Housing to make things right and stop our "Man's Inhumanities to Man". President Nixon addressing diplomats at a White House reception said, "We have an obligation each of you and all of us in the American Government to find ways to settle our Differences peacefully".

I urge the passage of AB - 353.

I hope that the State of Nevada will lead the field with its Open Housing Laws and keep them stronger, (With teeth in them) than the Federal Law!

Sincerely,



Eileen B. Brookman
Assemblyman Clark County

EBB/vf

S. B. 483

SENATE BILL NO. 483—COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL,
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

MARCH 26, 1969

Referred to Committee on Federal, State and Local Governments

SUMMARY—Removes conflict between city charter amendments
concerning municipal securities. (BDR S-1917)



EXPLANATION—Matter in *italics* is new; matter in brackets [] is
material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to public securities; eliminating conflicting amendments
to the charters of the cities of Reno and Sparks.

*The People of the State of Nevada, represented in Senate and Assembly,
do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 4 of Article XVIII of the charter of the City of
2 Reno, being chapter 102, Statutes of Nevada 1903, as added by chapter
3 204, Statutes of Nevada 1937, and last amended by chapter 246, Statutes
4 of Nevada 1967, at page 731, is hereby amended to read as follows:
5 Section 4 1. The city council shall have the power to purchase,
6 construct, reconstruct, condemn, install, alter, enlarge, extend, improve,
7 better, equip, furnish, or otherwise acquire one or more of the following
8 facilities, together with necessary components, appurtenances and sites
9 therefor, to wit:
10 (a) A sanitary sewer system, storm sewer system, municipal transpor-
11 tation system, flood control system or drainage system;
12 (b) A city hall, police stations, jails, fire stations, courthouses, garages,
13 municipal office buildings, maintenance shops, off-street parking garages,
14 libraries, auditoriums, convention halls, recreation centers, transportation
15 terminals, museums, fallout shelters or public buildings;
16 (c) Parks, zoos, golf courses, swimming pools, skating rinks or recre-
17 ational structures;
18 (d) Airports, garbage disposal facilities, parking lots or public projects;
19 (e) Streets, alleys, boulevards, highways, overpasses, underpasses,
20 curbs, gutters, sidewalks, bridges or facilities for pedestrian or vehicular
21 traffic;
22 (f) Vehicles or equipment for any department of the city;
23 and to wholly or partially defray the cost thereof by the issuance of deben-
24 tures, warrants, bonds, interim receipts, temporary certificates, temporary
25 bonds or notes (hereafter sometimes collectively referred to in this section
26 as "securities"), or to issue such securities for any other corporate purpose