

COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Minutes of Meeting -- April 19, 1969

The forty-fifth meeting of the Committee on Federal, State and Local Governments was held on the 19th day of April, 1969, at 3:00 P.M.

Committee members present: James Gibson, Chairman
 Carl F. Dodge
 F. W. Farr
 Chic Hecht
 Vernon Bunker
 Warren Monroe
 Marvin L. White

Also present were:

Pat Head	Las Vegas Water District
Cliff Young	Senator
John Fransway	Senator
Emerson Titlow	Senator
Proctor Hug	Senator

Press representatives

Chairman Gibson called the meeting to order. The first bill to be considered was as follows:

SB-521 Proposed by Senator Bunker.
 Increases maximum authorized compensation of board
 of directors of Las Vegas Valley Water District.

Mr. Head of the Las Vegas Water District spoke in regard to this bill, stating that he felt there was a definite need for a raise in the compensation for the board of directors in their water district. He urged the committee to reconsider this proposal. Senator Monroe suggested that they set a salary for these people which would put them in a classification with the county commissioners, instead of using a per diem method. It was concluded that Senator Bunker would work on this bill taking care of the needed amendments.

SB-526 Proposed by Committee on Federal, State and Local Governments.
 Fixes annual salaries of elected officers of counties and
 Carson City.

Chairman Gibson said that there had been strong objections to the approach they had taken on this bill and that he had asked Senators Titlow and Fransway to come in and explain to the committee their problems with it, and see if they could work out something that would be more acceptable.

Senator Fransway said that it becomes an almost monumental problem when you try to represent four counties, and Senator Titlow represents three, as everyone has their own ideas and it becomes very difficult. He indicated that he had resolutions from all the county commissioners indicating that they have placed in their budgets certain monies and so forth and that they are in complete accord -- and he is sympathetic with the home rule principle. Senator Fransway then pointed out that the bills had come right through the Assembly without any problems. It was explained by Chairman Gibson that they had an agreement with the Assembly that they would do this and send all the bills right back to this committee -- they didn't even look at them.

Senator Fransway then said that in most instances he is not asking for more money than had been allowed -- that is really not the problem. The amount of money is satisfactory, but it's just the fact that the counties they represent feel they haven't done their job here in the legislature. Humboldt county had suggested an amendment that they don't hold firm on the \$9,000, but that they be allowed to set it back to 8200 if they find they can't afford it -- there is a depressed economy in Humboldt County and they don't want to be nailed to the salary schedule if they can't stay with it.

Senator Titlow added his objections to this bill, and spoke in regard to the effect it has on the small counties he represents. Senator Farr and the rest of the committee pointed out that they were willing to work with the other Senators on this, but felt the concept of this bill was good.

Senator Farr then referred to the Nevada Revised Statutes which says: "The legislature shall have the power to increase, diminish, consolidate or abolish the following county offices: county clerks, county recorders, auditors, sheriff, district attorneys, county surveyors, public administrators, superintendents of public schools. The legislature shall provide for their election by the people, and fixed by law their duties, their compensation" Discussion followed as to the danger in allowing each county to set their own salaries, which may be way out of proportion, causing problems in other counties -- this is the whole point of this bill, to keep the county salaries uniform according to population and assessment. Senator Titlow stressed that it is very difficult for them to go back to the people and explain what happened to their own proposal, and the manner in which it is presently being handled.

Chairman Gibson then stated that he felt the main concern was with the sponsorship of the bill, and suggested that they pull off the front schedule which would apply January 4, 1971, and then that they amend and pass out the individual county bills for immediate action -- then this bill would go into effect in the second year. There is a lot in this bill (SB-526) that has a lot of merit and they would like to preserve it -- they are not trying to be arbitrary, but consistent. Chairman Gibson stressed that they are trying to reflect the interests and desires of the members of the Senate in what they do.

Chairman Gibson then said that Mr. McDonald had stated he felt this was one of the most important bills he had seen and a "good piece of legislation" in his judgment. The committee then discussed the needed amendments to the individual county salary bills, deleting the "ranges," and concluded that these would be passed on at this time.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia F. Burke

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Committee secretary