

MINUTES OF MEETING - COMMERCE COMMITTEE - 56TH ASSEMBLY
FEBRUARY 3, 1971

Present: McKissick, Hafen, Lingenfelter, Branch, Dini,
Hilbrecht, Ashworth, Capurro

Absent: Poggione

Others Present: Noel Clark, Commissioner Granata, and a
water engineer from the Public Service Commission;
Ray Knisely; Smith, Chairman of Government Affairs

Chairman McKissick opened the meeting at 9:45 A.M. for the
purpose of discussing the following:

A.B. 49 - Subjects certain water and sewer public utilities
to public service commission control. This bill
was killed.

A.B. 61 - Permits boards of county commissioners to assume
jurisdiction over water companies.

A.B. 63 - Expands definition of "public utility".

A.B. 61 and A.B. 63 are related bills and will be combined.

Noel Clark of the Public Service Commission explained that
contractors or land sub-dividers will open up land and start
a water company for this property. Either they or the persons
whom they sell this private water company to do not have the
money to expand or improve the water service so it results in
dissatisfaction by the users. The Public Service Commission
is not aware of all the small companies who service 25 customers
or less and have a capital of \$15,000 until the consumers pro-
test hikes in rates and/or service. He suggested that these
small water companies be put under the County Commissioners
jurisdiction as the Public Service Commission does not have
the engineering personnel or money for necessary improvements
in service. He said he felt the Public Service Commission
was being made the "whipping post" for these complaints. He
further stated it would take from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 to
manage these small water companies unless the county takes
over this management.

Mr. Hilbrecht said that the small cooperative water companies
seem to be working out well and in most cases, have adequate
money to maintain the quality of water, nominal water rates,
and improvements. Both he and Mr. Ashworth discussed the
various small water companies in the Las Vegas area and stated
they felt the county should not be in charge of regulations
governing them. They felt authority should be maintained whereby
users should have the right to complain to the Public Service
Commission and possibly go to a hearing. It might then be possible
for them to go to another water system within their area. Mr.
Dini pointed out that there are small communities who do not have
other water systems other than the privately controlled ones, and
they have no choice.

Mr. Lingenfelter suggested that legislation be enacted that if one of these small water companies does not supply adequate service and the Public Service Commission receives complaints, that a hearing be set up so the people could be heard. If so determined at that time, they could be hooked up to the main system if possible. If impossible, then they should be assisted in assessments for improvements to bring the system up to code. Mr. Clark said the main problem with this is many of the small private water companies service low income housing and these people cannot afford assessments for improvements. It was then brought out that the cities, counties, big water companies, and Public Service Commission would have to work out this problem.

Mr. Knisely said the Lovelock Valley has a water system worked out which takes the surface water and purifies it. They determine the rates and would object to county commissioners regulating this water distribution. Since A.B. 61 has been amended, it would not affect their water system.

Mr. Ashworth suggested that a sub-committee be appointed to consolidate A.B. 61 and A.B. 63. The Chairman appointed Dini and Hilbrecht to work with the Chairman of Government Affairs, Mr. Smith, on consolidation of these two bills, by amendment or a new bill.

Chairman McKissick requested that A.B. 103 - Prohibits certain sharp practices by automobile mechanics be scheduled for Monday, February 8, 1971, at 11 A.M. and also A.B. 113 - Requires itemized sales slips with each retail sale.

A.B. 64 which the Committee decided to amend N.R.S. 692.105 to include chiropractors was moved by Lingenfelter, Capurro seconded and passed.

McKissick said it would be beneficial to get representatives from Oregon and Arizona for the NIC background hearings. Mr. Hilbrecht suggested that an invitation be extended to Dr. Fulmer from Oregon also. He would like these men to appear on Wednesday, February 10, 1971. Tuesday, February 16, 1971, was set for the public to appear on NIC matters. February 4, 1971 is still set for background study of NIC matters.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 A.M.

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