

MINUTES - COMMERCE COMMITTEE - 56TH ASSEMBLY -  
March 9, 1971

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

Others Present: Lee Burge, Department of Agriculture  
Harry Galloway, Department of Agriculture  
Capt. Robert E. Smart, Reno P.D.  
Frank Rogers, Central Telephone - Las Vegas  
Bob McAdam, Bell of Nevada - Reno  
Bill Hicks, Nev. Agriculture-Livestock-Cattle Assoc  
Assemblymen Lowman, Bryan, Kean

Chairman McKissick convened the meeting at 10:30 A.M.  
He brought up A.B. 577 - Makes changes in public utility  
law relating to hearings of the public service commission.  
He said the bill only contained legislation regarding public  
service hearings in the first part. The second part was  
drafted regarding railroads and this should be in transportation.  
Assemblyman Lowman appeared later and discussion was held on  
referral of this bill since the regulations on PSC hearings  
was passed in AB-63. MOTION BY HILBRECHT TO AMEND OUT THE  
FIRST PORTION REGARDING HEARINGS ON AB-577 AND REFER IT TO  
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE. SECONDED BY LINGENFELTER AND CARRIED.

McKissick brought up three proposed bills which should be  
introduced. MOTION BY BRANCH, SECONDED BY LINGENFELTER FOR  
INTRODUCTION OF BDR-58-19-76. (A.B. 684)

Introduction of a bill to report license fees to Nevada Athletic  
Committion was MOVED BY LINGENFELTER, SECONDED BY BRANCH AND  
CARRIED, FOR INTRODUCTION. This bill is to be referred back to  
the Commerce Committee. A.B. 682 (BDR 41-142)

Introduction of a bill which authorizes investment of public  
funds in out-of-state banks was MOVED BY BRANCH FOR INTRODUCTION  
AND REFERRED TO GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS, SECONDED BY MCKISSICK AND  
CARRIED. A.B. 681 (BDR 31-1162)

McKissick announced that Thursday, March 11, there will be a  
noon luncheon meeting with Chambers of Commerce from both  
Reno and Las Vegas to discuss land bills, and a bill to legalize  
Clark County Commissioners Ordinance they passed which allows  
land promotions to secure sales.

McKissick announced there will be a meeting of the Commerce  
Committee this Saturday for the purpose of discussing the NIC  
bills and gaming bills.

AB-530 - Extensively amends provisions relating to agricultural products and seeds - Mr. Dini explained that this bill was introduced because the potato growers had requested it. It will establish standards and give consumer protection.

Mr. Galloway went over the bill stating that the USDA grade will be put on the packages and they could not be packaged below USDA #2. He suggested that Line 42, Page 2 be amended out so that it would not state "less than 50 lbs". Lingenfelter asked about "scrub" potatoes which are used for cattle feed. It was decided that the bill should be amended to state "human consumption" on Line 32. Hilbrecht suggested that the bill be amended to state "#2 or better".

Dini said the producers had requested that onions be included in the bill too and the bill will be amended to include this produce.

MOTION BY BRANCH THAT AMENDMENTS BE DRAFTED AS OUTLINED BY THE COMMITTEE ON AB-530, SECONDED BY HILBRECHT, MOTION CARRIED.

CAPURRO MOVED THAT AB-530 BE AMENDED AND A DO PASS, SECONDED BY BRANCH AND CARRIED.

AB-475 - Removes anonymity as element of offense and requires telephone companies to assist in tracing obscene and threatening phone calls. Mr. Rogers, Central Telephone, appeared and stated the bill was not necessary as presently NRS 200.660 covers this.

Mr. McAdam, Bell of Nevada, appeared and stated the difference between wire tapping and tracing calls. He stated his company has different operating procedures from Central Telephone and they now cooperate 100% with all law enforcement agencies. In wire tapping, a court order must be obtained and they would want the bill clarified to state this is not allowed except when this is obtained. He explained the procedures of "reversing straps", of being within an office area so this can be done, of smaller phone companies who do not have the equipment to trace calls. He suggested amendments which would make the bill liveable: Paragraph 2, Section 2 be deleted; line 19 after any - "Lawful" be inserted; Page 2, Line 3 after which "wilfully" be inserted.

Branch asked why they didn't recognize university police since there have been bomb scares. McAdam explained they go through the police switchboard to be sure the calls are legitimate.

Bryan appeared and said that in no way did he want this bill to be confused so people thought it included wire tapping.

MOTION BY BRANCH FOR AMENDMENTS TO AB-475 AND A DO PASS, SECONDED BY LINGENFELTER AND CARRIED WITH CAPURRO DISSENTING.

AB-563 - Prohibits certain practices of towing and removal of vehicles from public parking areas. Capt. Smart, Reno PD, appeared and explained that they have numerous complaints that tourists who park in public parking lots, place tickets on their cars, return to find their vehicle gone. He stated that certain towing companies have their lots unattended after 6 P.M. or so and towing companies watch them. The towing companies have employees who are on a commission basis so they tow vehicles and then charge exorbitant prices for towing and storage plus overparking. The tourist must pay this or it is further expense for him if forced to stay over. The tickets are missing from the vehicle so the person cannot prove he wasn't overparked. Capt. Smart stated they've tried to get a city ordinance passed regarding this but so far have been unsuccessful. He also brought out the towing company doesn't have to notify them of this type of tow - only repossessions.

Branch questioned the time of 24 hours before they can tow. Wondered if it shouldn't be 7 days but it was brought out that there are many small lots and this would work a hardship on this operation.

Poggione said signs should be posted telling the vehicle owner where their car is towed, and require someone in attendance so the owner could retrieve their vehicle. He also stated the PD should be notified so they wouldn't be putting out stolen car reports unnecessarily.

MOTION BY BRANCH THAT THE BILL BE AMENDED TO STATE 72 hours, notification to police department of where towed, and why. SECONDED BY LINGENFELTER AND CARRIED. Capt. Smart is to work out the amendments with Poggione.

Assemblyman Kean appeared and requested the Commerce Committee consider requesting a bill concerning rental equipment. He stated there is nothing now which covers equipment that is not returned so they can legally retrieve it as stolen.

MOTION BY LINGENFELTER TO AUTHORIZE COMMERCE COMMITTEE TO REQUEST A BILL CONCERNING RENTAL EQUIPMENT, SECONDED BY MCKISSICK AND CARRIED.

AB-472 - Regulates prepaid funeral service contracts - This is to be rescheduled so that Lou Mastos and Doug Erickson may have the opportunity to attend if they desire.

ACR-37 - Admonishes State Gaming Control Board and Nevada Gaming Commission to develop and adopt regulations to license and control junkets and junket operators. Capurro asked for action on this bill. MOTION BY LINGENFELTER FOR A DO PASS ON ACR-37, SECONDED BY MCKISSICK AND CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned 12:05 P.M.

rd