

Assembly

MINUTES OF MEETING - ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 56TH ASSEMBLY SESSION - FEBRUARY 2, 1971

Present: Homer, Fry, Ronzone, Bryan, Dini, Getto

Absent: Lowman, Olsen, Swackhamer

Others Present: Roy Knisley, Jim Sheewan, Sonia DeHart -
League of Women Voters, and Susan Santarcantelo
of the University of Nevada

Chairman Homer opened the meeting at 8:35 A.M. and issued the bill books prepared for each committee member. He requested that these books be left on the telephone table in the committee room after each meeting so the books could be kept current.

Dr. Homer announced that the Senate Ecology Committee would hold a hearing today at 1:30 P.M. to discuss S.B. 15 - Enacts Solid Waste Management Law. He requested that those members of the Environment and Public Resources Committee who could attend and said he planned to go.

A.B. 37 - Establishes policy of state concerning environmental quality - was tabled until action is taken on other bills introduced.

Discussion was held on having joint hearings on similar bills introduced by the Senate and by the Assembly. Dr. Homer said he planned to contact Senator Wilson when the Assembly Committee on Environment and Public Resources would hold a hearing, and request that Senator Wilson do the same when their Ecology Committee was holding hearings. Bryan said arrangements should be made to have people with expertise to speak at these hearings and moved that Dr. Homer as Chairman have the Committee's approval to meet with Senator Wilson, who is his counterpart in the Senate, and arrange for joint hearings on bills essentially similar and to arrange the hearings so that time may be allotted for people with expertise to speak on several bills to avoid duplication. Seconded by Getto and carried.

It was requested that planning be held beforehand to notify interested persons when a hearing would be held jointly, so time could be allotted for their representative to speak.

A.B. 10 - Requires reports concerning nondegradable detergents and prohibits their use. Chairman Homer said he had written to the State of Wisconsin regarding this proposed bill.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 A.M.

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rk *[Signature]* Homer

STATEMENT TO THE NEVADA STATE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY
re S. B. 15 - Solid Waste Management and Control

I am Mrs. Janet MacEachern, representing the League of Women Voters of Nevada. We support legislation providing for control and management of solid waste, designating an agency to have responsibility, and establishing necessary procedures for enforcement. We support the permit provisions of S. B. 15, but we think the bill is not sufficient in scope to meet the problems of managing solid waste in Nevada.

We recommend a much broader law be written that would include the following essential features:

1. Adoption of a state policy and purpose to effectively manage solid waste.

2. Clear-cut definitions of terms. Solid waste should be defined as garbage, refuse and other discarded materials including, but not limited to, solid and liquid waste materials resulting from industrial, commercial, agricultural and residential activities. Solid waste management should also be defined, and should include the entire process of storage, collection, transportation, processing and disposal of solid wastes by any person engaging in such process as a business, or any municipality, authority, county or any combination thereof.

3. A State Agency should be designated as having the authority and responsibility for the administration of the State's solid waste program. The League's preference is the establishment of an Environmental Protection Department because we believe this is as necessary in Nevada as it has proved to be at the Federal level. The real question is not whether or not such a department will be established, but when it will be established. The important thing today, however, is to get on with the job of protecting our environment.

4. The State Agency should have sufficient authority to accomplish its task. Such authority should include:

- a. Development of a statewide plan for solid waste management to include an inventory of quantity and type of materials.
- b. Authority to co-operate with Federal, State and Local agencies.
- c. Authority to secure Federal funds.
- d. Authority to adopt rules, regulations, standards, and procedures as necessary to accomplish the purpose of this act.
- e. Provide technical assistance to local governments.
- f. Require and issue permits and orders, and conduct inspections.
- g. Bring necessary enforcement actions, including enforcement of requirements of local governments.
- h. Authority to approve or disapprove of local government plans for solid waste management.

5. Local governments should be required to develop a plan approvable by the State and should be required to meet all State regulations. They should be permitted to establish more stringent regulations if they decide it is necessary.

6. Local governments should be permitted and encouraged to develop regional approaches to solid waste management.

7. Enforcement procedures should be established in the law and should include injunctive powers.

8. Penalties should be established. These should be civil rather than criminal and should be sufficient to discourage violations of regulations.

9. The State of Pennsylvania has recently adopted a solid waste law which is considered very good. League would endorse a law for Nevada patterned after the Pennsylvania law.

We are happy to see the Legislature taking an interest in enacting solid waste management legislation. For the record, we have been informed by more than one senator that a more comprehensive bill, embodying a combination of recommendations from State and Clark County Health Departments, other states, and those made by the League is to be offered for consideration. We hope you will reserve judgement on solid waste management and control until you receive this bill.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to be heard.

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