

FIFTY-SIXTH NEVADA ASSEMBLY SESSION

PRESENT: Homer, Ronzone, Lowman, Bryan, Getto, Dini and Olsen

ABSENT: Swackhamer and Fry

OTHERS: Mr. Gregory of the Health Department; Senator Wilson; Jean Ford of the League of Women Voters of Nevada

Chairman Homer called the meeting to order at 8:15 A.M. Discussion concerned S.B. 490, S.B. 118, S.J.R. 12 and A.J.R. 40.

Mr. Gregory began the discussion on S.B. 490 which "Provides for establishment of solid waste management systems." He said the State has to initiate a statewide plan before the local governments can act. He added that there will be Federal funds. He said they were trying to clean up the dumps.

Chairman Homer asked if this referred to private property. Mr. Gregory said it did not unless there was a nuisance being created. Mr. Lowman could not see that the bill did not refer to private property. Mr. Gregory added that it does not apply to agricultural waste disposed of on private land. Mr. Ronzone questioned the instances when waste is dumped by someone else on another's property. He said the owner couldn't be responsible for removing waste he did not dump on his property. Senator Wilson added that he wouldn't be in an ex post facto sense. Mr. Lowman commented that he could be required to move it and Mr. Dini added that the City can but the county cannot make people clean up waste when it is a nuisance. Senator Wilson said all this bill is about is to put together a statewide scheme so we can qualify for Federal funds.

Mr. Dini questioned Section 9. He wondered if the small towns were behind this. He felt it would really put the squeeze on the smaller towns. He wondered how a dump can be maintained in a town of 200 people. The little towns would have to put up a lot of money.

Mr. Getto went on to say that we are broadening the responsibility of the Board of Health and if we are going to give them additional duties, we have to look at the board. Right now, they are primarily concerned with the health of the State and is made of mostly doctors. If we are going to broaden the board's responsibility we should broaden the board itself.

Chairman Homer said it has been his contention that we should set up a board to handle air, water and solid wastes. And, if you look through the statutes, you will find that the Board of Health has had this power and hasn't done their job as has been given them by law. So, we need a new board. Mr. Lowman commented that in regard to a pollution board, he tended toward the Environmental Protection Board because you have people who are already involved and he went on to say that the reason the Board of Health has not acted is because they have not really been given a vehicle to act with. Mr. Dini agreed. He said it has been done mostly on a compliance basis. Mr. Lowman said we should wait until sub-committees have met and have been able to arrive at one board and then put this on that same board.

Mrs. Jean Ford representing the League of Women Voters in Nevada said the League would certainly be for having solid wastes put under the Board of Health or the Board of Environmental Protection.

Mr. Getto said we should try it for two years until the next Legislative Session. Mr. Lowman added that his only word of caution for waiting two years is that you can be so far down the line in lack of planning that you are going to be short of power before you get back in operation. So you better be confident in the board decided upon. He went on to say he tended to look askance at local control because it seems you will have a dozen different sets of control. He said this is why he would like to see this handled by the State.

Discussion then turned to S.B. 118 which "Requires registration of manufacturing products, production materials, and waste products where certain wastes discharged; provides for surveillance fees upon discharges".

Senator Wilson commented on the bill. He said we do not see this as a water pollution control in a regulatory sense. It requires the reporting of a material that finds its way into waters of the State. It simply says that this information can be collected to see what problems we have. This will save the State a great deal of money because if you think you have a problem, you don't have to spend a long time running tests because this requires a party using the stream to report on this. We heard testimony on this here and in Las Vegas and heard no real opposition to it. What this should do is enable us to stay right on top of this to note what is going into the streams. We have to be on top of this problem because it is so sensitive. We really haven't had any trouble selling this to anybody.

Mr. Lowman wondered if Senator Wilson would have any objections to putting this into the water bill. Senator Wilson said he would not. He went on to say he didn't care what form it takes. He said he just felt it was necessary.

S.J.R. 12 which "Urges Congress to adopt certain legislation concerning recreational values of public lands" was then discussed. It was decided to hold this resolution for further discussion.

Chairman Homer then read a bill that had been given to the committee to be introduced as a committee measure. It was providing for reforestation of mining areas. Mr. Lowman thought there was some usefulness in it just to stir up the mining industry. Mr. Dini said he would like to see the bill introduced. Mr. Getto made a motion for committee introduction. It was seconded and the motion carried.

A.J.R. 40 "Memorializes Congress to act to reforest America". Mr. Lowman explained the origin and purpose of the resolution. He felt it was a real hedge against pollution. Mr. Getto moved "do pass". Seconded by Mr. Dini. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 A.M.