

Assembly

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
MARCH 2, 1971

1-24

ALL MEMBERS PRESENT

ALSO PRESENT: ORAN GRAGSON, MAYOR OF LAS VEGAS
HANK THORNLEY, LAS VEGAS CITY COUNCIL
ANGUS MACEACHERN, PERSONNEL ANALYST, CITY OF LAS VEGAS
WILLIAM E. ADAMS, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER, LAS VEGAS
ASSEMBLYMAN PAUL MAY
ASSEMBLYMAN KEITH ASHWORTH
- GENE ECHEL, MAYOR, NORTH LAS VEGAS
CLAY LYNCH, CITY MANAGER, NORTH LAS VEGAS
SAM CASGROVE, ROXIES
T. F. DONNALLY, LAS VEGAS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
ROBERT GRIFFIN, LABOR COMMISSION
KEITH HENRIKSON, PEACE OFFICERS AND FIREFIGHTERS

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order.

AB 318 - Requires Clark County board of county commissioners to appoint a special committee to study local government problems in Clark County.

Mayor Gragson told the committee that the study was a good idea in his opinion and that he and his staff, the city council and all other governmental agencies in Las Vegas would co-operate fully.

Councilman Thornley agreed with the Mayor's statements. Assemblyman Branch asked Mayor Gragson if he had read the bill completely and if he felt it would be a good idea for each area to vote seperately on the proposed charter.

The Mayor answered that he had read the bill and could not answer the question until the report had been completed.

He would follow whatever guidelines the report suggested. Chairman Smith stated that this was a preliminary meeting and its object was to find out the general feelings of the government bodies in Clark County. He stated that many more meeting would be held on this bill.

The Chairman questioned if the bill would be more acceptable to all Clark County governmental areas if Sections 3 and 4 were amended.

Assemblyman Branch expressed his fear that since Las Vegas had the larger population the committee would be ruled by Las Vegas. Mayor Echels of North Las Vegas offered the committee some suggestions for amending the bill. It was his belief that the Clark County County Commissioners were given too much power. He felt that the city governments were closer to the people and should be given more opportunity to participate in the study. He suggested that the committee be composed on the basis of population, the one man-one vote rule.

Chairman Smith outlined the problems in Clark County and stated that a good report would not only outline the problems as they now exist but offer several solutions.

Assemblyman Bryan asked the Mayor if the committee recommended one charter would that be acceptable to him.

Mayor Echels replied that he had faith in the voters and would not object to this.

North Las Vegas City Manager Clay Lynch voiced strong opposition to the naming of the Public Administration Service of Chicago, Illinois in the bill as the firm to do the study. It was his suggestion that there were a great many qualified people in Clark County who could conduct the study and that the committee be given the option of hiring any consulting firms of their own choice.

Chairman Smith again stated that the purpose of this bill was to establish good guidelines which could be followed to obtain a study that would be of value to all of Clark County.

Mr. Lynch submitted a study that had been done by PAS, which he stated had cost between 15 and 20 thousand dollars and was of no value.

Assemblyman Lauri stated that it was his opinion that the purpose of the study was to solve the problems and that no one could at this time know what the results of the study would be.

Assemblyman Bryan stated that he could support this bill with some amendments.

Assemblyman Lauri asked if the people in the unincorporated area wanted to be annexed to the city of Las Vegas or to the City of North Las Vegas.

Mayor Echels stated that he felt that the idea that the legislature would act on some of the problems in two years would lead some of the government bodies in Clark County to co-operate immediately.

Assemblyman Ronzone asked if it would not be a good idea to consolidate some of the services.

Mr. Lynch told the committee of some of the areas where such co-operation is now being done.

Chairman Smith stated that the committee would propose some changes in the bill and a meeting would be held next Wednesday on the same subject.

Chairman Smith stated that he felt that perhaps a smaller committee would be more workable.

Assemblyman Branch stated that he wanted the committee to represent all governing bodies involved, and pointed out that there were 8,000 people in the unincorporated area not represented. He suggested that the committee be based on the 1970 census figures.

Assemblyman May pointed out the differences between districts in Clark County and said he felt that even if the charter were to be put out a general vote people would vote differently than they would if they voted in their own areas. However, he warned against the fact that a selling job could be done on this bill.

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Assemblyman Lauri suggested that the scope of the bill was too large and perhaps it should be more clearly defined and less authority given the committee.

Assemblyman Bryan agreed that he would not support the bill unless the power of veto were included in it.

Mr. Lynch stated that the role of the county government should be clearly defined.

Assemblyman Hawkins suggested that the way the bill were drafted the committee was almost told what conclusions to report back.

Assemblyman Getto asked Mr. Lynch what responsibility the City of North Las Vegas felt for the water pollution problem as they contract their sewer services.

Mr. Lynch stated that the City of North Las Vegas plans to build its own sewer plant in the future and felt a very great responsibility.

Chairman Smith pointed out that the whole problem had to be looked at, and the responsibility shared by all concerned.

Mr. Lee Bergstrom, an uninterested party, offered several ideas.

1. Keep the committee to a workable size.
2. Assign number of votes to persons on committee representing the number of people they represent. (Majority rule)
3. A non-voting chairman, chosen by the committee.

Chairman Smith asked for a committee introduction of a BDR dealing with annual sessions of the legislature.

Assemblyman Bryan moved that the committee not introduce it.

Assemblyman Branch seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

