

Minutes of Meeting - HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE - 56th ASSEMBLY SESSION - February 25, 1971

Present: Smalley, Wilson, Glaser, Poggione, White, Homer, Swallow, and Valentine

Absent: Prince

Guests: John H. Myers, Leg. Intern; Geri Alcamo, League of Women Voters; Ruth Critten, LWV; A.L. Smith, LWV; C. Cow, LWV; Marian West; Bertha S. Woodard, President Reno-Sparks NAACP; Donny Brown, Nevada Civil Order through Social Justice; Sue Toll; Ulysses Woodard; Eddie Scott, Political Action NAACP; Noel Manoukian, Democratic Legislative Support Committee; Hazel Erskine, ACLV; Marian Harkey, ACLV; John Riggs, Leg. Intern; Tom Gonyer, Leg. Intern; Dave Wilkerson, Student of U of N; Herb Mathews, Nevada Association of Realtors; Louis S. Trent, Leg. Intern; Gloria Petroni, Leg. Intern; James E. Harris, NNC; Howard Gloyd, Nevada State Education Association; Lonnie W. Johnson; Jerry Holloway, NSEA; Sue Robinson, NSEA; Gwen Rahner, WDC of CC; Virginia Cain; Faun Mortara, Leg. Intern; Rick Elmore, Leg. Intern; Susan Moesel; and Pat Mukawa; Ed Psaltis, Washoe City Teachers Association.

Meeting was convened by Chairman Wilson at 2:45 P.M. in Room 131. He gave a brief welcome address to those in attendance.

A.B. 254: An act prohibiting discrimination in the inheritance, purchase, lease, rental, sale, ownership and conveyance of real property, in providing loans and financial assistance for the purpose of purchasing, constructing, improving or repairing dwellings, and by real estate brokers, in business transactions involving sale and rental dwellings; imposing certain duties on Nevada commission for equal rights of citizens; providing penalties and private remedies; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Geri Alcamo, League of Women Voters, spoke in behalf of the bill. (See Attachment No. 1)

Shirlee Wedow, Nevada Teachers Association for PTA, spoke in behalf of the bill. She stated that last year at the PTA Convention, the association voted to support a Fair Housing Bill. She felt that A.B. 254 is a good bill and hoped the committee would give it a Do Pass.

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Ed Psaltis, Washoe City Teachers Association, spoke in behalf of the bill. He stated that a representative counsel for the Teachers Association representing 1300 teachers has passed a resolution supporting Open Housing. He said they feel it is time Nevada had its own Open Housing Bill with proper funding and seeing that it is properly enforced. One thing that has hurt the Reno area teaching is that these minority teachers can't find adequate housing. If we had open housing, I think this ghetto type thing would break up. We, the Teachers Association, recommend that this bill be passed.

Noel Manoukian, Democratic Legislative Support Committee, spoke in behalf of the bill. At the 1970 Nevada State Democratic Convention there was reference to the housing problem in Nevada. The convention adopted a resolution supporting a Fair Housing Bill unanimously. He hoped the Committee would give this bill a Do Pass.

Eddie Scott, Chairman of the Reno-Sparks NAACP, spoke in behalf of the bill. He felt this bill would end racial and bussing conflicts. He stated his association would not support any weakening amendments to this bill but urged strengthening to it. After committee questioning about strengthening he said he meant funding. The Equal Rights Commission needs to travel around the state and have hearings on this type of thing. They need legal representation, and their budget doesn't allow this.

Mr. Wilson explained to him that they have proposed a budget for the Equal Rights Commission. He said he didn't know whether they will get it or not, but at least it was a step in the right direction.

Jerry Holloway, teacher and Chairman of the Nevada Human Relations Committee, spoke in behalf of the bill. He felt that this bill would alleviate some of the problems where schools are concerned. He said his association definitely supported this bill.

Luther Mack Jr. spoke in behalf of the bill. He said that the 1964 Civil Rights Act provided very little money to enforce equal opportunity as relates to employment. He definitely hoped the committee would give this bill a Do Pass.

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Howard Gloyd, Executive Director of the Equal Opportunity Board for Washoe County, spoke in behalf of the bill. He stated that already we have twice landed men on the moon but yet we still have people that do not even have a place to live here on the earth. He felt to enforce this law \$100,000 is needed. Reverend Jerry Furr introduced a supportive bill for this money before the Senate Finance Committee. They are holding this until the Health and Welfare Committee of the Assembly decides on A.B. 254.

Sue Robinson, Human Relations Consultant with the Clark County School District, spoke in behalf of the bill. She said the teachers try to give the children the best education possible but when they go out the school doors, they are on there own. She felt education would be much easier if our neighborhoods were open. The housing pattern needs to change. This bill would lower hostility and school intergration costs would be reduced. She felt if this Legislature would change the housing patterns, then this would change people's opinions.

Herb Mathews, Nevada Association of Realtors, and Donny Brown, Chairman for Council of Civil Orders, spoke briefly to say they supported the bill and urged its passage.

There was nobody that opposed the bill.

Mrs. Gwen Rahner, Chairman of the coalition that formulated this bill, was introduced by Mr. Wilson.

Mr. Wilson presented a resolution he received from the Board of School Trustees of Clark County that was passed, supporting the Fair Housing Bill. (Attachment No. 2) He also received one from the West Charleston Parent-Teacher Association supporting this bill. (Attachment No. 3)

After a short thank you address from Chairman Wilson, the guests were excused.

Mr. Valentine made a motion for A.B. 254 a Do Pass; Smalley seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 P.M.



Testimony of the LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEVADA

on AB 254, Fair Housing Bill,

2/25/71 - Assembly Committee for Health & Welfare.

I am Mrs. Geri Alcamo, Equal Opportunity chairman of the League of Women Voters of Reno-Carson-Sparks, speaking today for the State League.

The League of Women Voters of Nevada joins in support of AB-254, the Fair Housing Bill, and urges this committee's recommendation of the bill without amendment.

The bill as it stands is the work of many months of a careful coalition of citizens interested in bringing this state's often-divided community more equitably together. We think it is a strong and workable piece of legislation, giving protection both to the plaintiffs and to the defendants. We particularly commend the inclusion of the lending agencies as realistic factors in the free housing marketplace. The damages seem low, but perhaps they will constitute real deterrents, and it is our hope that the very fact of a Fair Housing Law will in itself spur more open communities, as the passage of the Civil Rights Act did for accommodations.

The bill as it stands has tried to answer and forestall objections, so the League of Women Voters would urge your particular care not to weaken it in any way by amendment. The importance of open, integrated living in the process of increasing our understanding of one another The League feels cannot be over- and much needed emphasized. We judge this bill to be an effective/tool.

RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of all citizens to see that every citizen is treated justly and fairly; and

WHEREAS, the Clark County School District has been charged with the responsibility of integrating the schools of the District; and

WHEREAS, the alleged lack of integration is due to housing patterns and not due to discrimination; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable to preserve the fundamental concept of neighborhood schools, and to assure all people in the State of Nevada of their equal rights to live where they desire, and to achieve a quality integrated education;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Clark County Board of School Trustees does hereby go on record as favoring a just and reasonable fair housing law for the State of Nevada, and does hereby encourage the Nevada State Legislature to pass such a law so that all citizens might enjoy their equal rights and privilege to live where they please.

Dated this 28th day of January, 1971

  
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President  
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

WEST CHARLESTON PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION

2821 PALMIND LANE  
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

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February 18, 1971

The Honorable Jack Schofield  
The Assembly  
Nevada Legislature  
Carson City, Nevada

Dear Mr. Schofield:

Attached is a resolution passed by the  
West Charleston School Parent-Teacher  
Association Board.

Would you please convey this to the  
Clark County Delegation.

Thank you very much.

Very truly yours,

WEST CHARLESTON P.T.A.

*Carol Cowley*

Carol Cowley, President

CC:kf  
encl.

DISTRIBUTED AT THE REQUEST OF Schofield

Date: 7

RESOLUTION

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3 WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of all citizens to see  
4 that every citizen is treated justly and fairly;

5 AND WHEREAS, the Clark County School District has been  
6 charged with the responsibility to integrate the schools in the  
7 District;

8 AND WHEREAS, the alleged lack of integration is due to  
9 housing patterns and not due to discrimination;

10 AND WHEREAS, it is desirable to preserve the fundamental  
11 concept of neighborhood schools, and to assure all people in the  
12 State of Nevada of their equal rights to live where they desire,  
13 and to achieve a quality integrated education;

14 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the West Charleston Board  
15 of Parent-Teachers Association does hereby go on record as favor-  
16 ing a just and reasonable fair housing law for the State of  
17 Nevada, and does hereby encourage the Nevada State Legislature  
18 to pass such a law so that all citizens might enjoy their equal  
19 right and privilege to live where they please.

20  
21 DATED this eighteenth day of February, 1971.

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23 WEST CHARLESTON PARENT-TEACHER ASSN.

24  
25 By Carol Cowley  
26 CAROL COWLEY, PRESIDENT  
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