

Assembly

MINUTES - WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE - 56th SESSION - FEB. 24, 1971

Chairman Young called the meeting to order at 10:20 A.M.

Present: R. Young, Howard, Capurro, Hafen, Brookman, Mello, Schofield, Swackhamer, Lingenfelter.

Absent: Hilbrecht (Excused)

Guests: Earl Oliver, Fiscal Analyst; John Dolan, Dept. Admin; George Miller, HRW; Bob List, Attorney General; Rolan Westergard and Bud Donnard, Humboldt River Comm.

An emergency meeting was called to resolve the problem of a shortage of funds due to welfare litigation costs in Las Vegas.

Attorney General's office presently has four lawyers working on the Welfare litigation in Las Vegas. In addition they have been getting informal counseling from outside sources. Attorney General's office has a special fund to be used in obtaining outside lawyers which covers mileage and per diem. This fund will be depleted before the end of this fiscal year. Attorney General List requested an appropriation of \$15,000 to be funded by March 5th for the remainder of the year and an appropriation of \$30,000 for each year in the coming biennium for their special fund to be used in Welfare litigations. John Dolan stated that money would come through Welfare's budget but that assistance would come through the Attorney General's office. Mr. Miller stated that the Governor concurred with this. Bob List stated that matching funds could probably be made available. John Dolan stated that he would look into this matter.

In addition, the Attorney General stated that they need an additional person immediately on a full time basis to handle routine welfare matters, one starting July 1 and an additional person starting July 1972. Also, he requested that he be authorized to go as high as \$18,500 in salaries for these additional welfare deputies.

Attorney General List and George Miller presented a short briefing to Committee members concerning the welfare litigation in Las Vegas.

Mr. Howard moved approval of a \$15,000 supplemental to cover costs until July 1 and the hiring of additional personnel through the welfare budget.

Mr. Capurro Seconded the motion.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Feb. 24, 1971

HUMBOLDT RIVER COMMISSION

Representatives of Humboldt River Comm., stated that 6¢ tax per acre foot was not enabling them to meet expenses anymore. Mr. Donner stated that without an increase in taxes, they will be \$20,000 in the "hole." This is the only stream system in Nevada that has a limit.

Mr. Swackhamer questioned Mr. Donner if he was suggesting taking the limit off or just changing it. He replied that he thought it would be best to just change the limit.

Mr. Swackhamer inquired as to what a 1¢ raise per acre foot would cost the users. Mr. Donner replied that he did not have this breakdown but stated that he would give him a breakdown of what each user is paying.

Mr. Howard asked Mr. Westergard and Mr. Donnard for a breakdown of the amount of money that the Humboldt River Commission would need. He indicated that the breakdown should include users, salaries, projects in future, etc.

Mr. Westergard presented to the Committee a copy of BDR 48-479 for their review.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:35 A.M.

Vice Chairman Howard called the meeting to order at 3:15 P.M.

Present: Howard, Capurro, Hafen, F. Young, Brookman, Mello, Schofield, Swackhamer, Hilbrecht, Lingenfelter

Absent: R. Young (Excused)

Guests: Dr. Rushner, Nevada Heritage Assoc; Virgil Bucchianeri, Nevada Heritage Assoc.; Jim Calhoun, Nev. Museum; Dr. Shepperson, Nev. Historical Society; Mrs. Cann, Nevada Historical Society; Lee Burnham, Employment Security; Walter Drew, Employment Security; Robert Long, Employment Security; J. Reilley, Vocational Educational Advisory Council; Hope Roberts, Vocational Educational Advisory Council; Turner Houston, Vocational Educational Advisory Council; Dean Scheid, Mining Coop. Fund; Proctor Hug, Senator.

Feb. 24, 1971

Vice Chairman Howard asked for approval of the minutes.
 Mr. Mello moved approval of the minutes.
 Mr. Hafen seconded the motion.
 Motion passed.

PAGE 155 - NEVADA HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

Agency receives appropriation of \$1.00 which entitles it to recognition as a State Agency.

Mr. Bucchianeri was present to speak about acquisition of the V & T. He stated that they are seeking legislation whereby the State would underwrite a loan which would enable the Nevada Heritage Association to purchase the V & T. He stated that the V & T would serve as a tourist attraction and fares collected would be used to pay off the loan. Security National Bank has discussed the possibility of giving the Association a loan if the State would underwrite the loan.

Mr. Mello questioned Mr. Bucchianeri if he was aware that the train in Colorado was "going under" and that the train in California was involved in commercial shipping. In answer to part of Mr. Mellos question, Mr. Bucchianeri replied that the Durango line lost 16 miles of track.

Mr. Bucchianeri gave the Committee a breakdown of the costs involved in purchase of the V & T:

(1) Paramount V & T equipment (2 engines, passenger car, freight cars, misc. parts)	\$100,000
(2) Hurlburt Amusement Co. V & T Engine #25, 3 cars	25,000
(3) Moving to Reno (Use of rail and trucking) Approx. \$750 per car	40,000
(4) Restoration	
Engine display	10,000
2 engines, restore & operate	70,000
	\$250,000

Feb. 24, 1971

He suggested that some of the restoration work could be done by prisoners and volunteers.

Mr. Mello asked Mr. Bucchianeri if he had any idea what the cost would be to maintain this proposed railroad. He replied that he had an idea and stated that he was getting figures on this from Cal Western railroad.

In answer to Mr. Mello's question, Mr. Bucchianeri stated that they would like to have about 4 miles of track. He added that the proposed railroad would be constructed and operated by a private company.

Mr. Mello requested further information as to cost of construction, operating costs, maintenance costs, laying track, right away information, the price of fares, etc.,

PAGE 156 - MUSEUM

Mr. Calhoun stated that he concurred with the Governor's recommendation. Discussion in regards to charging visitors. Mr. Calhoun stated that the way the statute presently reads, they can't charge visitors; however, he is going to look into the possibility of charging adults. Presently there is a small donation box; the average weekly donation is approximately \$7.00 and on occasions it has been as high as \$60.00.

PAGE 162 - NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Printing-Duplicating-Copying - Increase in this area is due to microfilming.

Dr. Shepperson discussed some of the ongoing projects of the Nevada Historical Society.

PAGE 438 - U C ADMINISTRATION

Recipients of unemployment compensation may collect up to a maximum of \$47.00 per week and \$5.00 per dependent per week up to a total of four dependents or \$67.00.

Approximately 95% of funds are spent on two basic programs of unemployment compensation and employment. Additional 5% is spent on programs funded by Manpower programs.

Present balance in trust fund as of July 1, 1971, is over \$37,000,000. On November 30th of each calendar year this agency must conduct a test as to solvency of this fund. Mr. Burnham stated that under statute the executive director has the prerogative of adjusting experience ratings. This agency is presently conducting a study of the effect of extending the benefit period during periods of unemployment. If

unemployment goes above a certain percentage, an extended benefit period would be triggered into effect. Minimum period extended benefit period can run is 13 weeks. 50% of this money is returned to the State by the Federal Government.

PAGE 439 - OASI ADMINISTRATION

See program statement. No change.

PAGE 132 - VOCATIONAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Mrs. Roberts stated the Council's main objectives (refer to handout).

Governor's recommendation is based on running program with Federal funds available. Agency requested \$65,428 in first half of biennium and \$68,669 in second half of the biennium. Governor recommended \$50,000 for each part of the biennium. Mr. Reilley stated that their minimum Federal grant is \$50,000, but he added that they would only receive \$30,415 in Federal monies as there aren't sufficient funds. Therefore, Council is requesting an additional \$19,500 for each part of the biennium to carry out functions and to fulfill the Governor's recommendation.

Mr. Reilley presented to the Committee the "Annual Evaluation Report To State Board for Vocational Education 1970," which outlined the Council's recommendations to the State Board of Education.

A.B. 3 is coming before the Assembly to broaden responsibilities of V E Advisory Council.

PAGE 447 - MINING COOPERATIVE FUND

Mr. Schied stated that the entire fund is spent on field work. USGS matches appropriated State funds. Approximately 1/4 of money appropriated is spend on special topographical maps, while 3/4 of money appropriated is spent on geological data.

Mr. Schied said that the mineral industry was the most important industry in the State. Last year the mineral industry in Nevada produced \$184,000 and the total effect to the State of Nevada was \$780,000,000. For the past ten years, this agency has not had an increase in the State's appropriation; Mr. Schied appealed to the Committee for an increase in their budget. Refer to handout regarding economic data on the mineral industry of Nevada.

PAGE 131 - EDUCATION COMMISSION OF THE STATES

Assembly Committee on Ways and Means 6

Feb. 24, 1971

Senator Hug was present to speak on behalf of the Education Commission of the States. The Education Commission provides a channel of communication for legislators, specialists and educators. Nevada's commission will be composed of 7 members who will meet with the national commission three to four times per year. Refer to S.B. 4.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 P.M.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE - NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE - 56th SESSION

AGENDA - FEBRUARY 24, 1971 - WEDNESDAYAFTERNOON - BUDGET HEARINGS

<u>TIME</u>	<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>PAGE</u>	<u>REPRESENTATIVE</u>
2:00	Nev. Heritage Assn.	155	Dr. Rushner
2:30	Nev. State Museum	156	James Calhoun
3:00	Nev. Historical Society	162	Marion Welliver
3:30	Employment Security Dept.	438	Lee Burnham
4:00	Voc. Ed. Advisory Council	132	J. Reilley
4:30	Education Commission of the States	131	J. Dolan
4:30	Mining Cooperative Fund	447	Dean Scheid