

MINUTES - JOINT MEETING - SENATE FINANCE / WAYS AND MEANS
NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE - 56th SESSION - APRIL 6, 1971

Chairman Lamb called the meeting to order at 8:40 A.M.

Present: Senate Finance - Senators Lamb, Brown, Gibson, Pozzi, Titlow, Fransway and Harris. Ways and Means - R. Young, Howard, Capurro, Lingenfelter, Schofield, Hafen, F. Young, Brookman, Hilbrecht and Mello

Absent: Assemblyman Swackhamer (Excused)

Guests: John Dolan, Budget; Howard Barrett, Admin; Earl Oliver, Fiscal Analyst; John Crossley, Chief Legislative Auditor; Mike Medema and Bob Dimmick, Legislative Auditors; Russ McDonald; Mrs. Ford, Parks.

Refer to Joint Committee Budget Action sheet, April 7, 1971.

PAGE 29 - DISTRICT JUDGES' TRAVEL

Assemblyman Roy Young remarked that the only difference was that Ways and Means put in an additional judge in 1972 in S. B. 82.

Senator Fransway asked how this would affect District 6. Assemblyman Roy Young replied that we are amending it back in.

Senator Fransway moved that Senate Finance concur with Ways and Means.
Senator Titlow Seconded the motion

Assemblyman Hilbrecht remarked that Judge Mendoza concurred with Ways and Means not to put all 4 district judges on in the first part of the biennium. He requested us to only put on 3 district judges and to delay an additional judge for one year.

Chairman Lamb asked if we should think about the court administrator.

Chairman Lamb remarked that he had a motion and a Second to go.

MOTION CARRIED

Nays: Harris, Gibson

PAGE 30 - JUDGES' SALARIES & PENSIONS

Senator Brown moved that Senate Finance concur with Ways and Means.

Senator Fransway Seconded the motion
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

PAGE 5 - OFFICE OF EXTRADITION CLERK

Mr. Dolan remarked that when we built this budget we did not have most of the information. So we felt that we could cut back for the extradition costs. We will need additional funds for extradition costs: \$5,500 needed in current year; \$14,000 needed in 71-72, and \$15,500 needed in 72-73.

Mr. Dolan added that Russ McDonald had stated that he would slip this into the General Appropriation Act.

Senator Brown moved that Senate Finance concur with Ways and Means

Senator Fransway Seconded the motion

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PAGE 449 - BOND INTEREST AND REDEMPTION, CONSOLIDATED

Chairman Lamb remarked that we have a bill here that will affect this.

Assemblyman Lingenfelter stated that A. B. 490 covers general obligation bonds and revenue bonds.

Assemblyman Capurro remarked that general obligation bond was for Las Vegas and the rest are revenue bonds.

Senator Gibson wanted to know about the \$100,000 for Parks.

Assemblyman Roy Young remarked that Russ McDonald feels they are alright.

Mr. Oliver stated that McDonald sent a letter to the committees outlining what the bill was to cover.

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Senator Gibson stated that the problem is that they need \$100,000 to go ahead with appraisals. He wondered if they could repay it after the bonds are sold.

Assemblyman Roy Young stated that if there was feeling for this, he will have to pull the bill off of the board.

Chairman Lamb asked Mr. Oliver what his feeling was on this. Mr. Oliver remarked that this bill was not the proper place to put this.

Senator Gibson stated that there are some public options they might lose before the bonds are sold.

Mrs. Ford remarked that we can use the bond. We are questioning the timing and the advisability for taking money to use it for title searches and appraisals.

Assemblyman Hilbrecht brought up the possibility of setting up a revolving fund for accountability. He felt that these were charges properly charged against the issue.

Mr. Barrett remarked that he didn't understand why there is not an accountability now. It would only mean that you would have to bond for more. I believe you have already appropriated \$25,000 to Bonding Commission for Park Bonds.

Chairman Lamb asked Senate Finance what their pleasure was.

Assemblyman Lingenfelter stated that he liked Senator Brown and Gibson's idea about loaning them the money and letting them pay it back out of bond issue.

Mr. Lingenfelter moved that we do this.

Mr. Capurro Seconded the motion

HOLD for testimony of Russ McDonald.

Senator Brown expressed the desire to reconsider the salary of the fellow down in Las Vegas (Deputy Insurance Commissioner).

Assemblyman Howard stated that this could be done without opening up the whole budget.

Senator Pozzi remarked that if you open this budget up, there are about 500 others that would want to be opened up.

Assemblyman Roy Young remarked to Senator Lamb that we had

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to change one deputy to \$13,500 and one deputy to \$12,000.
Senator Titlow Seconded the motion
MOTION DID NOT CARRY

A. B. 5 - Creates position of Ombudsman.

Assemblyman Hilbrecht stated that an ombudsman would save the State three times the amount of money that is in the bill. The purpose of this bill is to give people access to government through this position. He cited Hawaii's satisfaction with their ombudsman. He remarked that both Nevada and Hawaii were tourist attractions. The ombudsman would be the States's complaint officer and could investigate as to where problems were being mismanaged. He referred to the Hawaii report regarding the ombudsman. He stated that 93% of complaints in Hawaii were resolved by this individual.

This position would relieve pressure from institutions of government as well as away from policemen and this person resolves the problems for government. This position exists in 27 other countries and has never been abandoned in any country that has tried this.

Assemblyman Hilbrecht cited the Review Journal which stated that the enactment of this position in big corporations has been a tremendous success. Assemblyman Hilbrecht cited recent riots in Las Vegas and felt that position of ombudsman could have prevented much of this.

Senator Brown questioned the salary of proposed ombudsman.

Assemblyman Hilbrecht remarked that in Sweden and other countries, it is the policy to have him the same in salary as the highest judicial person. He must determine if these are crank type complaints or valid. It should be a high salary to insulate him from influences.

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PARKS BOND ISSUE

Russ McDonald appeared before both committees and testified that the statute authorized a bond election. The issuance of \$500,000 in bonds was approved at the election for the purpose of acquiring parks.

A bond resolution indicating intent to sell bonds must state the purpose of issuing bond. These are proper acquisition costs. He didn't feel that tacking it on to capital improvement bill would do any good.

In order to get the thing off the ground immediately it would take 60-90 days to go through the procedure of having the legislative commission approve the presentation of Park Divisions and authorizing the sale of bonds. You are 4-5 months away if you go through this procedure.

He remarked that if the general fund could stand it he could probably draw us up something stating that from the proceeds of the first issue, those monies loaned would then be repaid to the general fund. If we want to accelerate it, he felt that we could do it this way.

Assemblyman Roy Young asked if we could amend S. B. 147.
Russ McDonald replied that we could.

Assemblyman Howard moved that we amend S. B. 147: \$100,000 to be repaid from the bond proceeds when available.
Assemblyman Capurro Seconded the motion
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Senator Brown moved that Senate Finance concur with Ways and Means.

Senator Gibson Seconded the motion
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Senator Gibson remarked that we still have some classified professional salaries above \$20,000 that need to be adjusted and set.

Assemblyman Roy Young remarked that if these are in the bill to pass it over.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 A.M.