

2

MEETING  
OF THE  
SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
COMMERCE

Date: February 16, 1971

Committee Members Present:

Chairman Close  
Senator Drakulich  
Senator Hecht  
Senator Swobe

Committee Members Absent:

Senator Lamb

Witnesses:

Dave Byington, President, Nevada  
State Life Underwriters, Inc.  
Dr. William T. White, Director  
Commerce Department  
Oliver G. Bolton, Executive  
Manager, Nevada Independent  
Insurance Agents  
Lynn Johnson, Nevada Insurance  
Agents Association.  
John Bawden, State Highway  
Engineer  
William Raymond, Deputy Attorney  
General

Chairman Close called the meeting to order at 2:35 P.M.

He announced that testimony would now be heard on SB 230:

SB 230 - Changes the qualifications of the  
Commissioner of Insurance.

Mr. Dave Byington expressed full support of the bill. He advised the committee that his association had met recently, discussed the ramifications of the new bill, and were in favor of the change in qualifications.

Dr. White briefly covered the history of the bill and said the Insurance Code had been changed in the last six or seven months making the qualifications a little more lenient.

In reply to an inquiry by Senator Swobe as to whether the term, "interest in the field of insurance" was specific enough, Dr. White assured him that the word "interest" was designated to mean interest in a technical sense. Dr. White also stated that by deleting the portion relating to the number of year's experience it would not interfere with the qualifications of those being considered for the job.

Oliver Bolton then explained that the Director of Commerce, working together with the insurance associations in the state, would appoint a qualified individual. He further stated that the insurance commissioners in New York, New Jersey, and California appoint individuals from all different backgrounds and they seem to do an extremely fine job.

Lynn Johnson advised that when the bill was originally written, there was a provision made for academic background. Now, at both universities, there are people getting degrees which provide the academic background needed for such a position. He told the committee his association was fully in support of the bill.

After speaking in behalf of SB 230, Messrs. Byington, White, Bolton, and Johnson left the meeting.

Vote to kill Senate Bill No. 230:

Yeas--Swobe, Hecht -- 2  
Nays--Close, Drakulich -- 2  
Motion defeated

SB 132 - Clarifies provision governing compensable housing in federal aid highway projects.

State Highway Engineer John Bawden explained that this bill was patterned after a portion of the Highway Act of 1970, however, the total payment had been upped to \$15,000.

There was some discussion about the language, "a decent, safe and sanitary replacement dwelling". Mr. William Raymond assured the committee members that this is the language used by the Federal Department of Transportation.

Mr. Bawden asked that the bill be held in committee until amendments could be drafted. A motion to hold the bill for amendments carried.

SB 135 - Permits Department of Highways to reserve easements, rights and interests in property that is sold or exchanged.

Mr. Bawden explained that although property owned by the Department might be sold or exchanged, the Department would retain easement rights on the land for such purposes as drainage ditches, etc. According to a Federal ruling, this new section may preclude the use of billboards of any kind. The rights of light, view or air pertain mainly to freeway overpasses.

SB 136 - Permits Department of Highways to acquire property for public parks, playgrounds, recreational grounds and sites adjoining highway for freeway rights-of-way.

Mr. Bawden explained the bill and stated that Federal funds would be used to acquire such property. The Department would be the owner of the land, but all improvements, etc. would be the responsibility of the people developing the property.

Messrs. Bawden and Raymond then left the meeting.

Chairman Close announced that a public hearing was scheduled upon adjournment, Tuesday, February 23, on the following bills:

SB 55 - Amends law relating to licensing and control of private investigators, private patrolmen, process servers, polygraph operators and repossessors.

SB 56 - Revises license application and qualification requirements for private investigators, private patrolmen, process servers, polygraph operators and repossessors.

SJR 14 - Memorializes Congress to enact legislation to halt abuses in bankruptcies.

Senator Hecht, who introduced this resolution, briefly reviewed the reasons he felt new legislation is necessary. He explained that there have been no major changes in the Federal bankruptcy laws since the 1930's. After a discussion with Judge Taylor about the antiquated laws, Senator Hecht drafted this resolution.

A discussion followed regarding credit companies making it much easier for individuals to declare bankruptcy.

Senator Swobe moved that the bill be passed out of Committee. Seconded by Senator Hecht. Motion carried.

AJR 1 - Memorializes Congress to enact legislation adopting the metric system.

Assemblyman Kean did not appear for discussion of this resolution. Chairman Close told the committee that he was advised that the nation would be on the metric system by 1985.

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 P.M.