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SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

March 11, 1971

Chairman Monroe called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Committee Members Present: Chairman Monroe  
 Senator Close  
 Senator Foley  
 Senator Dodge  
 Senator Swobe  
 Senator Wilson  
 Senator Young

Others Present: Grant Davis - Legislative Counsel  
 Bureau  
 Jim Thompson - Deputy Attorney  
 General

S.B. #244 - Clarifies when state agency may employ  
 legal services other than those of  
 Attorney General.

Jim Thompson testified that the Attorney General would like to have the right to determine whether or not he and his deputies will have time or are qualified to handle state cases.

Senator Foley made a motion to "do pass". Senator Dodge second the motion. Motion carried.

S.B. #242 - Requires Attorney General to keep record  
 of cases.

This would allow the Attorney General to keep on file only those cases which he feels he would need. The county clerk would still keep a record of each case.

Senator Wilson made a motion to "do pass". Senator Young second the motion. Motion carried.

S.B. #181 - Enacts disclosure law for members of public  
 agencies, boards, councils, commissions, or  
 corporations.

Senator Wilson explained the amendments to this bill. He applied it only to Washoe and Clark to see how it works. The language would include sewer and improvement districts which extend into the counties; it would set the monetary limits discussed in previous meetings, namely \$500 in any one occurrence or \$3,000

in the 6 month period succeeding and preceding; it also provides<sup>2-100</sup> for disclosure and abstaining on a vote before the board or commission if the officer has an economic interest in that vote.

Senator Foley made a motion to amend and "do pass". Senator Dodge second the motion. Motion carried. Senator Swobe informed the committee that he might oppose the bill on the floor.

S.B. #308 - Permits county commissioners to prohibit animals from running at large on private property.

Senator Dodge had an amendment to this bill that would authorize the board of county commissioners to pass by local ordinance some laws which place the burdens on the people in certain areas for confinement of animals. Section 244.355 of NRS prohibits the running of animals at large on roads and highways and requires a petition of 20% of the resident taxpayers. This bill would repeal that section. In order to incorporate the streets and highways concept and to eliminate the private property concept, he used the phrase "running at large within the county" in Line 5.

Senator Swobe made a motion to amend and "do pass". Senator Wilson second the motion. Motion carried.

S.B. #186 - Allows counties to supplement annual salaries of district judges.

Senator Foley explained that this bill would allow the county commissioners to supplement the salaries of judges who are asked to sit in a metropolitan area where they do not normally sit, so that they will be paid the higher wages paid in metropolitan areas.

He didn't feel there was any appetite for it right now, and suggested we leave it in committee. There was no vote taken.

S.B. #187 - Regulates court hours in the conduct of jury trials in certain districts having two or more district judges.

Senator Foley explained that this bill would allow maximum use of court facilities and expediency in jury trials by allowing two jury trials per day; one to start in the morning, another in the afternoon. He felt this would work well in Clark County because they have a master calendar judge, but that perhaps it would not work in Washoe. Senator Wilson stated that since Washoe is presently trailing jury trials, it would not be a problem. Senator Young felt that the problem is not courtroom facilities, but the need for additional judges. Senator Close felt that it wouldn't work if there were more judges than courtrooms since every judge should have his own courtroom, and the county commissioners would

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not appropriate money for more courtrooms.

No final action was taken.

S.B. #311 - Provides for chief judge in districts having more than one judge and requires certain information to be reported.

Senator Foley explained that this bill would provide for a chief judge who would also be master calendar judge in districts having more than one judge. The committee felt that the appointment should be for one year rather than four years so it would pass the work load around and limit their fear, as expressed in another meeting, of being discriminated against by any one in a supervisory capacity.

Senator Swobe made a motion to amend and "do pass". Senator Wilson second the motion. Motion carried.

S.B. #345 - Permits criminal court to take extreme measures regarding disruptive defendant.

Senator Wilson explained that this bill would follow the supreme court case, and lays out guidelines for the court in statutory language.

Senator Foley made a motion to "do pass". Senator Close second the motion. Motion carried.

S.B. #344 - Permits enforcement of drafts drawn on banks and given in connection with licensed gaming activity.

After considering the testimony given at the hearing on March 8, the committee felt this bill should be killed.

Senator Swobe made a motion to "do not pass". Senator Close second the motion. Motion carried.

A.J.R. 8 of the 55th Session - Proposes amendment to Nevada constitution reducing minimum voting age.

The committee felt that this amendment should be passed to conform with the action taken by the United States Senate. Grant Davis stated that there was an amendment to be added to this bill which was already passed by the people that this Senate should attach. Senator Foley felt this would hold up the bill. Grant Davis said that it wouldn't.

Barbara Morgan distributed a statement of the League of Women Voters on this subject of the 18-year old vote, and mentioned that there were other considerations that should go along with the right to vote; such as gambling, serving on juries, etc. (Attachment 1).

Senator Foley made a motion to amend to conform to the 1970 constitutional amendment, and "do pass". Senator Swobe second the motion. Motion carried.

S.B. #247 - Changes sentencing and parole procedures and penalties for certain felonies.

Senator Close had an objection that this bill would set a fourth level of sentencing for prisoners in the state prison, and when the blue ribbon committee meets, there will be a fifth level. He said there was another bill coming out which would take care of the sentencing and parole problems that the committee should consider.

Senator Close made a motion to "kill" this bill. Senator Wilson second the motion. Motion carried.

S.B. #220 - Repeals provision requiring the giving of ineffective notice under certain lien laws.

Senator Dodge stated that Jim Guinan was asked to draft some language to mandate the general contractor to give notice to the subcontractor and supply a copy to the owner or the person with whom he entered the contract.

Will discuss further when the committee has the amendment.

Senator Swobe made a motion that the committee introduce BDR 16-1992 and refer it back to the Judiciary Committee. This is a bill similar to the abortion bill introduced and passed by the Assembly and killed on the Senate floor.

Senators Foley and Close objected vehemently against their names being connected with the introduction of this bill. Senator Swobe withdrew his motion.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Wynkoop, Secretary

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Attachment 1  
3/11/71

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEVADA

February, 1971

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Consensus Statement on Voting Age

The League of Women Voters of Nevada endorses the lowering of the voting age in Nevada to 18 in federal, state, and local elections. It supports legislation to that effect now before the Nevada Legislature and, upon its passage, urges a special election as soon as possible to bring the measure to a vote of the people (as required for all Constitutional amendments).

The League acknowledges that education, communications, travel, and work experience have made today's youth become increasingly aware and considerably more involved in the political process. It believes that lowering the voting age will provide a role "within the system" for young people to assist in solving the Nation's complex problems and increase interest and participation in the electoral process. It will also bring about a more equitable balance in the electorate of the Nation. As life expectancy rises, the number of older voters increases. A corresponding expansion in the number of younger voters will broaden the political base and provide a more balanced approach in the nation's general political outlook.

In order to more fully prepare young people for accepting this responsibility, League members urge a more relevant high school curriculum involving citizenship training. This should include emphasis on the importance of a single vote to the American way of life, information on the requirements and mechanics of registration with the possibility of voter registration days at high schools themselves, and demonstration of the actual process of voting in the local community. Teachers should be trained specifically in the most effective methods of developing an understanding of good citizenship principles; a non-partisan approach should be required, including the presentation and discussion of all political philosophies and encouragement for students to individually make decision on their political affiliations.

League members, while supporting the lowering of the voting age to 18, feel this action raises other serious questions regarding additional responsibilities and privileges at this age. Among these are whether the 18-year-old should be allowed to drink, gamble, serve on juries, be elected to public office, be able to make legal contracts, marry, and be treated as an adult when it comes to criminal activities. While no consensus was asked for in these areas, the League feels the ramifications of such changes in law should be investigated.