

Assembly

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION - Meeting

February 12, 1973

MEMBERS PRESENT: Schofield, Lowman, Foote, McNeel, Vergiels, Broadbent, Barengo

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

GUESTS: Dr. Hansen, State Supt. of Schools
Pete Kelley, Nevada Retail Assoc.
Gary Gray, Clark County teacher
Dawn Granata - Student at University Education Dept.
Keith Hayes - Assemblyman

Chairman Schofield convened the meeting promptly at 4:00 P.M. mentioning that the first item on the agenda was AB 64, the consumer education bill.

Assemblyman Demers gave a brief resume on what has transpired on this bill. He then introduced Mr. Pete Kelley of the Nevada Retail Association.

Mr. Kelley said that the Nevada Retail Association supported AB 64. He said that it is mostly young people and particularly young marrieds who were the greatest credit buyers. There has been a tremendous growth in this credit buying between the years of 1950 and 1971. They thought, too, he said that there was a great need for educating young people against shop lifting. The dangers that they face and that it can ruin their lives for years to come. He showed two booklets that were examples of how big business was concerned with educating the young in consumer transactions. One of them was put out by Sears Roebuck & Co.

Chairman Schofield asked if there were any questions they would like to ask Mr. Kelley.

Mr. Lowman said that he felt that if it was going to be taught that it seemed to him that both sides should be included or a whole picture of the free enterprise system. He asked Mr. Kelley if he had reason to believe that the schools were going to accept and teach this information if it was offered.

Chairman Schofield then asked Mr. Kelley if, in essence, then what he was asking that this be integrated in all courses of study. He asked further if he thought that this education was a way of getting at the root of the problem.

Mr. Kelley answered that all facets of business should be presented. Students should be taught about going into business as well and the hazards they would face if they did. In short, they should be prepared for living.

Mr. McNeel asked if he thought that this should be mandated by legislative action. How far do we go, he asked. Are we going to have mandated courses in ecology, what next. Somewhere this is going to have to stop.

Mr. Kelley answered how do you propose the local school boards incorporate this then.

Mr. McNeel said possibly by resolution or something like that.

Chairman then thanked Mr. Kelley and asked Assemblyman Keith Hayes for his comments.

Assemblyman Hayes addressed the Chairman and members of the Committee by saying that we have to take a jumping off point and that his jumping off point was "what is the aim of education"? He said he felt the aim of education was providing our young people with the wherewithall to live happy, productive and useful lives and this is the thrust of the aim of education. He said that after practicing law in the State of Nevada for thirteen years he saw a problem and the problem is just how woefully inadequate the background of these young people is how to get along in this world, especially from a financial standpoint. He said that young marrieds, for example, even though they have adequate paychecks, they don't know how to budget their money; they don't know how much it costs them to buy on credit and gentlemen, he said, this is a real problem, they don't know the traps they fall into in retail buying. It is something they have to be taught because they are not learning it at home. He said he agreed with Mr. Lowman that there has been an abuse of industry, as well. That people tend to condemn industry for ecology without thought to the problems involved and that it is not industry's fault. Youth needs to be taught to look at this side of the situation, too, according to him. He said they couldn't realize how many divorces of young people were caused by financial problems. His summation was that young people in a consumer oriented society need training in their responsibilities as consumers. He said this type of bill has been defeated before on the basis that the Board of Education would take care of it. He said they hadn't done so and therefore it should be mandated to them.

Assemblyman Foote spoke and said that she was one of the few retailers there are in the Assembly and that most of the people in education don't know the problems of retailers. She felt that they were the last people to know what to tell the kids. She said the business people were constantly solicited by kids for one thing after another.

Mr. McNeel asked Mr. Hayes if he felt it was necessary to mandate this by putting it in a state statute. He said, I repeat, we will be mandating everything.

Mr. Hayes answered that it should be mandated in the schools and if something else comes at a later date deal with it at that time.

Mr. Lowman asked if Mr. Hayes realized that there was already a curriculum in the schools the last two years for this purpose. That it was optional.

Mr. McNeel asked Mr. Hayes if he said that there had been a similar bill in before on this.

Mr. Hayes said that he had been informed that there was and that it was killed in the last Session of the Legislature.

Chairman mentioned that he had tried to get a bill through about teaching defense to the children so that in case of an emergency they would know what to do. He said the School Board hit him on this and said this was in their jurisdiction.

Mr. Vergiels said he felt that if they passed this there would be no telling what else they would have to add to the curriculum when some people were complaining that they couldn't read or write and that lot of the young people didn't have the basic skills to understand this anyway. Mr. Vergiels then asked if they would like to support a resolution.

Dr. Broadbent spoke and said that he felt his son, for instance, was already getting this type of thing and mentioned an incident that had been instigated at school where they would experimentally invest in the stock market. He felt this type of legislation was not necessary. He said they should tell the school boards to get on this thing.

Margie Foote said this thing had been discussed now and she said they know what the attitude is and she couldn't see wasting paper on a resolution.

Chairman then asked Dr. Hansen, State Superintendent of Schools, to speak. He said that he felt the Legislature could give guide lines. He mentioned resolutions in the past by the Legislature that had brought emphasis and action such as much discussion last Session ~~about double~~ sessions in school and overcrowding and that consequently measures had been taken by school districts in compliance with this. Legislative action, he said, simply stirs people up to work on these matters and it receives very high priority.

Assemblyman Barengo said that kids did not know what it was to be a consumer and he was in favor of this type of legislation. He said that when he was campaigning that it was mentioned to him many times that kids didn't know how to function in society.

Mr. Vergiels said he was inclined not to go a bill but to pass a resolution.

Mr. Schofield said that he had taught in a junior high school with an enrollment of 1500 pupils and it was optional to do this very thing and in a class he taught that only about sixty out of this large enrollment entered this class.

Mr. Barengo moved to do pass AB 64.

Mr. McNeel seconded the motion.

Motion defeated with McNeel, Lowman, Broadbent and Foote dissenting.

Mr. Vergiels made the motion that the Committee sponsor a resolution changing the word shall to "may".

Chairman asked if there was any appetite for this.

Miss Foote said she would suggest that if they had a resolution to put more into it and show both sides of the picture.

Chairman told Mr. Vergiels he could do whatever he liked on that.

Chairman then passed each one a brochure on a community junior college.

He said that we would discuss AB 195 which clarifies the authority for the State Board of Education to prescribe the requirements for graduation. He said he asked Dr. Hansen to stand by in case they had any further questions on this.

Dr. Hansen said that the State Board had prescribed the requirement for graduation but this makes the authority explicit. He thought it would clarify what they had been doing. That is the reasoning that the bill be presented into Committee. For instance, he said, new areas are still opening up. Like he was asked if a course was necessary in Indian culture and history. This might change as time goes on.

After some further discussion it was decided by Chairman to file this bill in his drawer.

Chairman reminded members of the Joint Hearing on the Law School Tuesday. He spoke on the meeting to be held this evening. He said he would discuss the remaining bills on the agenda at the next Committee meeting.

It was decided to ask Mr. Patroni back to have more discussion on AB 192, a rather controversial bill on investigating files.

It was decided to adjourn at 5:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Geraldine Smith, Secretary

AGENDA FOR COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION (JOINT)

Date Feb. 13, 1973 Time Aft. Adj. Room Senate Hearing Room

<u>Bills or Resolutions to be considered</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Counsel requested*</u>

\*Please do not ask for counsel unless necessary.

HEARINGS PENDING

Afternoon

Date 2/13/73 Time Adjournment Room Senate Hearing Room

Subject Concurrent Resolution on law school at University of Nevada

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_ Room \_\_\_\_\_

Subject \_\_\_\_\_