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JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
57th NEVADA ASSEMBLY SESSION

MINUTES

February 12, 1973

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Keith Hayes, Chairman, at 2:20PM. Since there were many guests present concerning AB 66, Mr. Hayes requested that everyone wishing to speak try to be as concise as possible and to also try to avoid repetition.

MEMBERS PRESENT: MESSRS: Hayes, Barengo, Glover, Torvinen, Huff, Fry, Lowman, Hickey, and Ms. Foote.

MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE

GUESTS PRESENT: A.J. Feroah, Inspector sergeant, Reno Police Department; Les Kofoed, representative of the gaming industry; Barbara Morgan, from the League of Women Voters; Marsha Mathis, Legislative Intern for Senator Hecht; Richard Staub, Legislative Intern for Assemblyman Lowman; and students, Mike Hoffman, Dave Gangner, Steve Funk, Ginny Turk, Kenneth Zutter, Pam Prouty, Linda Wylie, Donna Hayes, Debbie Boone, Bob Buttner, Mike Hardy, Jamie Smith, Jim Wood, Chris Moyle, Eric Pederson, Joel Fredrickson, Mark Sorensen, Stefan Gonzalez, Bob Tuttle, Laura Robinson, Steve Anderson, Stan Putman, Jeff Fredrickson and Ben Grissom; Mr. Geno Del Carlo was present as an observer, and members of the press.

Mr. Hayes announced that due to the interest generated by AB 66 and the number of people presently prepared to speak this would be the first bill considered today.

AB No. 66 SUMMARY-Reduces age of majority for males from 21 to 18 years of age.

Mr. Kofed, executive secretary of the Northern Nevada Gaming Association, said that he had a brief statement containing two main points in opposition to this bill. 1. Mr. Kofed feels that Nevada cannot afford the bad international publicity of being the first Western State to lower the age of majority to 18. He cited the drinking age in contiguous states: Oregon, Washington, Utah, and California -21years-In Colorado 3.2 beer is permitted at 18 but no other alcohol; Idaho allows beer at 19, but no liquor until 21. However Idaho has no bars - liquor stores only. 2. "The identification problem would be compounded since it is hard enough to determine age now, but with 18 year olds attaining legal status we would have trouble with kids from fourteen on up." Enforcement would be difficult.'

Mr. A.J. Feroah from the Reno Police Department said that he was attending this Committee meeting in a dual role, that of law enforcement officer, and as a very interested parent[himself being the father of nine children]. Mr. Feroah's main contention was that the average 18 year old does not have either the maturity or the earning power to support drinking or gambling, and therefore the responsibility would be referred to the parent.

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Mr. Feroah further stated that he did not wish to convey the impression that he was degrading the intelligence of the 18 year old "the kids today are very aware", but lacking the maturity they would be unable to handle the added responsibility this legislation would give them.

Mr. Glover asked if the parents of an 18, 19, or 20 year old would be legally responsible for their child. Mr. Feroah replied that if the bill passed they perhaps would not be legally responsible but that would not alter the fact of a moral responsibility.

Richard Staub, Legislative Intern, said that he felt compelled to speak in behalf of 18 year olds after hearing the prior testimony. Mr. Staub said that he felt that there really shouldn't be much unfavorable international response since in many European countries youth are raised with alcohol being an accepted course in meals. Regarding the question of being able to support themselves, he stated that if all adults now were self-supporting there would be no need for welfare. He went on to say that although it was an old argument there was still validity in the fact that if an 18 year old is allowed to fight and die and vote for his country he should be allowed the privileges and responsibilities pertinent to these acts.

Assemblyman Lowman asked Mr. Feroah if he was in favor of 16 year olds driving. Mr. Feroah said that he was. Mr. Lowman asked how he would rationalize the two incongruous attitudes.

Assemblyman Glover remarked that his name was on this bill as a sponsor and he felt that it was time the legislators recognized that people at 18 do have responsible attitudes. "The military recognizes 18 year old maturity in allowing them to drink on base and in giving them liberty in some of the most vice ridden areas of the world." "It is further ridiculous for a male under 21 to have to have his parents sign for him to get married or sign credit contracts."

Stefan Gonzalez, a student, spoke to the Committee saying that he was really not concerned with the drinking and gambling privileges connected with this bill since he is a member of The Church Of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and these things are forbidden by church law, but that he is employed and feels very hindered by not being able to purchase a car or any other major credit purchase without a signature from a parent.

Assemblyman Lowman said that as primary author of this bill he felt it necessary to give some of the philosophy behind this legislation. "Two years this same bill was introduced and members of the Committee defeated it by a vote of 5 to 4 with an attitude of let's wait and see what Nevada will do on the vote." "We know now what Nevadan's want." "Above that, If you haven't given a child a sense of responsibility by the age of 18 it is too late." "It is time for Nevada to be in the forefront of legislation, we have ridden on the coattails of other states for too long now." "Nevada has become a sophisticated state and the youth of Nevada deserve our support." "Mr. Fry has just pointed out to me that the largest spending group in the United States is the teenager." "We must set a deadline, either fish or fowl, not somewhere in between."

Mr. Hayes informed the Committee that he had talked with the District Attorneys Office in Las Vegas and that they would appreciate an opportunity to be heard on this matter. He explained that there would be no action on this bill until this happened and Thanked the witnesses for appearing.

Mr. Fry brought out the point that the other bill under consideration today, AB No. 31 was relative to AB No. 66 and possible should be held also for further opinion.

Mr. Hayes announced that he would schedule both bills for re-consideration, and instructed the Secretary to notify the Clark County District Attorney.

Mr. Fry Moved that the meeting be adjourned, Mr. Hickey seconded.

ASSEMBLY

AGENDA FOR COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Date FEBRUARY 12 Time 2:00 PM Room 240

Bills or Resolutions to be considered

Subject

Counsel requested\*

|                |   |  |
|----------------|---|--|
| <u>A.B. 31</u> | SUMMARY—Permits incarceration of adult probation violators by juvenile division of district court. Fiscal Note: No. (BDR 5-3) |  |
| <u>A.B. 66</u> | SUMMARY—Reduces age of majority for males from 21 to 18 years of age. Fiscal Note: No. (BDR 11-543)                           |  |
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\*Please do not ask for counsel unless necessary.

HEARINGS PENDING

Date FEB. 22 Time 8:00 AM Room 234  
Subject AB32 SUMMARY—Authorizes work release program for state prisoners

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