

Assembly

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LABOR AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

FEBRUARY 22, 1973

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Banner
Mrs. Brookman
Mr. Barengo
Mr. Ullom
Mr. McNeel
Mr. Bickerstaff

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Capurro

GUESTS: Bob Brenner, Washoe County Building and Safety Dept.
Art Koontz, Washoe County Building and Safety Department
Bob Warren, Nevada Municipal Association
Paul Lumos, Carson City
Henry Etchemendy, Carson City
W. E. "Bill" Adams, City of Las Vegas
Harold P. Dayton, Jr., Douglas County Commission
John Meder, Nevada Association of County Commissioners
Bob Kerns, Peace Officers and Firefighters
Joe Midmore, Builders Association of Northern Nevada
Robert B. Churn, City of Sparks
Cliff Moore, City of Sparks

The meeting of the Labor and Management Committee was called to order by Chairman Banner at 4:30 on February 22, 1973 in Room 222. Mr. McNeel moved that the minutes of the hearing be approved and Mr. Ullom seconded the motion. There were no objections and minutes stand approved. Mr. Banner stated the purpose of the meeting to be a discussion of AB 233. He said that although the committee had taken previous testimony on AB 233 at the hearing that anybody that wished to speak further on the subject was welcome to do so at this time.

Mr. Art Koontz, Chief Building and Safety Inspector for Washoe County, spoke in opposition to parts of the bill. He said that there was indeed a need for a uniform code although the state would need an army of inspectors to implement this bill. He cited the example that last year his department inspected 2,742 units and in the 15° weather they had only 21 complaints, all for frozen pipes. These pipes were installed by union plumbers and so felt that the problem was with the plumbers not with the inspection. He also said that it was a waste of taxpayers money and the inspection is being done adequately on the local level. He also admitted that there may be problems in the outlying areas, but his main concern was adding more and more burden on the consumer by adding more and more cost to his house.

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Mr. Banner asked him if he had any objections to the code itself. Mr. Koontz replied that he had no objections to the code and he felt that the board, when it becomes more established, would be a good idea. Mr. McNeel asked if these complaints that he mentioned had been inspected and approved. Mr. Koontz said that they pipes had been inspected but that they had been installed by union plumbers. Mr. Barengo wanted to know how the code that he operated under stacked up to the UPC, and Mr. Koontz replied that he felt that his code was more stringent. Mr. Koontz went on to say that having a place for complaints to be aired really wasn't necessary because the local areas could handle their own complaints. Mr. McNeel wanted to know if there were any qualification standards that he required of his inspectors. Mr. Koontz replied that he had no set standards but his inspectors were all from the contracting business or had taken courses in architecture at the University. Mr. McNeel again reiterated that this bill is not to take the job of the local inspector but to establish a state agency overseeing the local areas to make sure that certain standards are maintained. Inspection may be very good in some areas but in other areas it is completely lacking. Mr. Koontz agreed that it would be good in the smaller outlying areas but that he felt the rest of the industry should not be penalized for these few small areas. He felt that the larger areas could help the smaller ones set up some standards and establish inspections.

Mr. Banner than read each new part of the bill to see just where the objections were. Mr. Meder said that the trouble started with the subsection 4 of Section 4, with the duties and powers of the board and State inspectors.

Virgil Adams, City of Las Vegas, then stated that there should be something in the bill that states that the state in no way supercedes the local authority. Mr. Ullom asked if lines 24-26 and lines 28-29 on page 8 were deleted would this be satisfactory. Thereby using the board to certify plumbers and to assist cities and counties to conform its local ordinances to the provisions of the UPC. Mr. Barengo asked if they felt that the exclusive enforcement agency would be the State and if so this was not correct. Mr. Adams replied that he felt that there was a definite conflict between 420 and 430 in that he felt that power was being given to the State board and then turned around and also given to the cities. He felt that this could not be done. Mr. Barengo cited the situation of the Attorney General having the power to prosecute as well as the local District Attorney. Mr. Adams then asked the committee who would have the final control when a local inspector had passed a project and a State inspector comes along and fails it. Mr. Barengo felt that if the county or city had their codes in effect and were enforcing them that there should be no reason for problems.

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Mr. Warren, Nevada Municipal Association, cited lines 49-50 on page 7 as giving the board administrative powers to set up further regulations. This gives the State the top level power and therefore is the ultimate administrator. Mrs. Brookman replied that this is how it is done by the gaming industry and who is going to be the titular head if not the State.

Mr. Warren replied certainly not the State, that the city and counties should be. It is a local function recently given to them by the State and they should be allowed to fulfill it. Mrs. Brookman stated that they still hadn't answered her question of who is going to oversee in the outlying areas where there is no inspection. Mr. Warren felt that perhaps the larger communities should help the smaller ones set up some form of code and inspection. Mrs. Brookman stated that we are a very rural State and she felt that there was a real need for a uniform code for the entire State.

Mr. Meder, Nevada Association of County Commissioners, said that if this particular bill passed he could foresee all sorts of little agencies being established for every little part of the building industry. In the matter of licensing the plumbers perhaps some method of having a reciprocal agreement between the various areas and counties could be established.

Mr. Adams said that difference seemed to be whether the State could come and inspect everything or just complaints. He said, "They think it is the State taking the power of the local people. That it removes it from the local function and puts it in the State hands and does not give the authority back to the cities to actually perform what they think should be done for their citizens. It sets it up in such a way that it is set up as a basic code. We think that there is no way that you can improve it, that every year you have to worry about the new book coming out with no provision in between for considering new material, new methods or new approaches. Also the question as to whom becomes the representative to the code changing agency, whether it is going to be the State or the local entities. Who is going to be involved in that, what arrangements are going to be set up so that you could get the new material out." He said they think these are the main problems that would be encountered.

Mr. Barengo asked if there was anyone who had any objections to the establishment of the UPC as the standard. Mr. Adams said that there were no objections, that they think that every city and every member of the building industry is interested in having a standard. It is how that code is applied and who does the application of it that is the objection.

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Henry Etchemendy of Carson City said that if the majority of the committee feels that the intention of the board was not to override and supercede the local entities and that it will be used only where there is no local supervision then that should be put into the bill. He suggested that the committee write language into the bill that the purpose of the statute is to perform advisory services for local entities wherein the most recent edition of the UPC has been adopted and is being enforced. Secondly, that in those areas of the State wherein adequate enforcement is not a fact the State inspectors will inspect. Thirdly, certification of plumbers shall be done locally in those entities wherein the code is adequately enforced.

Next Mr. Harold Dayton, Chairman of the Douglas County Commission, spoke in opposition to this code because they have adopted the code and are administering it and they think it should be left that way. There is no fiscal note attached and he feels that this is wrong in that it would cost a great deal of money to implement and maintain the bill. This additional cost would be a burden on the consumer and there should be no need for double inspections in the industry. Perhaps in the outlying districts there is a problem but any place that has the code in effect and is enforcing it should be exempt.

Mr. Brenner of Washoe County Building and Safety Building suggested that perhaps an advisory board could be set up with a member of each county and one from the State to regulate and enforce the code. Let these men inspect instead of just one State man. Also let the local people govern and help each other instead of the State.

Bob Churn of the City of Sparks said that the City of Sparks felt like the rest of those who spoke here today on this matter.

Mr. Warren stated that he had talked to Reno and they also opposed this bill in that they had a code in effect and they were already enforcing it so the bill was unnecessary.

The final person to speak on the bill was Mr. Kerns representing the Peace Officer and Firefighters. He said that he was really speaking on behalf of the Fire Marshall's office in that the ideal of having State inspectors overriding local was really not advisable. He wanted to know where it would all stop. This could open a can of worms. He felt that the UPC was good but that it should be done on the local level.

Mr. Barengo asked if anyone had any objections to the last part of the bill beginning with Sections 7-11. There were no objections. Mr. Bickerstaff said that mobile homes were exempt and he wished to leave that way.

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Chairman Banner adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandee Gagnier

Sandee Gagnier,
Assembly Attache

ASSEMBLY

AGENDA FOR COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND MANAGEMENT

Date Feb. 22 Time 4:30 Room 320

Bills or Resolutions
to be considered

Subject

Counsel
requested*

AB 233

Amends the Nevada Plumbing Laws

ASSEMBLY

AGENDA FOR COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND MANAGEMENT

Date _____ Time _____ Room _____

<u>Bills or Resolutions to be considered</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Counsel requested*</u>
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*Please do not ask for counsel unless necessary.

HEARINGS PENDING

Date Feb. 20 Time 4:15 Room 222
Subject AB 233 Amends Nevada plumbing law.

Date _____ Time _____ Room _____
Subject _____

STATE OF NEVADALABOR AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEEGUEST REGISTERDATE: Feb. 22

NAME	REPRESENTING
BOB BRENNER	WASHOE COUNTY BUILDING & SAFETY
AET KOONTZ	" " " "
Bob Warren	Nev. St. Municipal Assn
Paul Simon	CARSON CITY
Shary Stewart	Carson City
W.E. "Bill" Adams	City of Las Vegas
Harold P. Dayton, Jr.	Douglas Co. Commission
JOHN MEDER	NACE
BOB KERINS	PEACE OFFICERS & FIRE FIGHTERS
Joe Midmore	Builders Assoc. of N. Nevada
ROBERT B. CHURCH	CITY OF SPARKS
CLIFF MOORE	CITY OF SPARKS

Plastic Pipe For Gas Can Be Dangerous

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Now that plastic pipe is used increasingly for natural gas, strict safety standards are needed, the National Transportation Safety Board said.

The board completed a report on a gas explosion that tore apart a Fort Worth, Tex., home in 1971, and the board relayed three major suggestions to avoid that type of accident:

— To the Transportation Department's office of pipeline safety, it recommended study of the heat fusion of plastics and the issuance of "detailed regulations for heat-fusion welding of plastic piping systems."

— To the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, it suggested formation of guidelines for use of plastic pipe connections and reinforcing sleeves in gas connections.

— To the Lone Star Gas Co., the board suggested it educate its inspectors "on the need for correct installation of plastic pipe," and it recommended a check at random at some connections similar to those made at the Fort Worth house before the accident.

The board said the woman, alone in the home, lit her stove Oct. 4, 1971, and a blast lifted the roof and "blew out the four walls." She was severely burned.

"The probable cause of the Fort Worth accident was ignition of accumulated natural gas from the 20-pounds-per-square-inch system which had migrated into the house from a failed plastic pipe connection under the sidewalk," the report said.

The board said that when a contractor had installed the gas line at the home nine months ago previously, workers did not have the proper reinforcing sleeve and so they "improvised with shorter lengths cut from a coil of plastic pipe."

JAPANESE EVACUATE

Japan evacuated Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands in the

Wednesday, Feb. 21, 1973

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