

NEVADA LEGISLATURE
ASSEMBLY

9

57TH SESSION

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FUNCTIONS
MINUTES

DATE: Wednesday, March 7, 1973

ATTENDEES: Brookman, Chairman
Mello, Vice Chairman
Bennett
Bremner
Jacobsen
Torvinen
Young

ABSENCES: None

GUESTS: Keith Ashworth, Speaker and Assemblyman
Thos. Hickey, Assemblyman
Brock Fraser, Sales Consultant for Autrey Bros., Inc.
P.O. Box 14593, Las Vegas, Nevada

Meeting was held in Assembly Lounge, Room 118, and called to order at 11:40 by Chairman Brookman.

1. Chairman Brookman advised that the first item on the agenda is that Mr. May asked if Mr. Ken Thrust, reporter for Las Vegas Valley Times, could be accredited and allowed to sit with the press.

Motion made by Mr. Jacobsen to approve the request.

Seconded by Mr. Mello.

Committee Action: Unanimous approval.

2. Chairman Brookman requested copy of letter dated February 26, 1973 from Dick DeWitt, News Director, KCRL-TV, thanking the committee for outfitting the radio/television booths with drapes be enclosed in the minutes. Copy is attached.
3. Chairman Brookman requested the secretary read a letter received from Vicki Nash, State Director, Nevada American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, Capitol Building, Carson City, Nevada, advising a unique joint celebration of Independence Day was held in 1972 in Mount Morris, Illinois and Philadelphia, Pa where, by means of a 2-way amplified telephone hook-up, a program at the Liberty Bell in Independence Hall was heard in Mount Morris and the Mount Morris response was heard in Philadelphia. The program included ringing a bell in Independence Hall 13 times, one stroke for each of the original 13 colonies. The state had made tapes of the bell and distributed them to all radio and TV stations with the request they go on the air at the same time. The event was so successful that

telephone officials suggested a conference type call be set up in 1973 and, if possible, all 50 states join the bell chorus. A roll call of states was suggested timed to permit all 50 bells to ring at the same time. A committee in Mount Morris is working on the program for 1973 and has requested Nevada join the project.

The Bicentennial Commission would be pleased to cooperate in such a project and will gladly handle publicity and notification to radio and TV stations if so directed by the Legislature.

Question: Would the Legislature like to officially designate the chimes in the Capitol Building as the official state bell to participate?

Mr. Torvinen made a motion to officially designate the chimes in the Capitol Building as the official state bell for participation in this program.

Seconded by Mr. Bremner.

Committee Action: Unanimous approval.

4. Chairman Brookman stated that she mentioned at the beginning of the Session the desirability of trying to get a similar way - and adopted by other states - of putting amendments to a bill by underlining the new wordage. She advised some states have found this method easier.

She requested the members study this and she will bring it up at the meeting next Tuesday.

5. Chairman Brookman advised she has a letter from Mr. Zel Lowman asking a resolution be made up changing the State of Nevada constitution to increase the postage allowance. His justification is that it was done in the 1950's when stamps were 6¢ each and they are now 8¢ and 11¢. He would like it to be at least \$80.00.

Mr. Young commented it was part of the constitution.

Mr. Bremner made motion to leave it the way it is.

Committee Action: Indefinite postponement.

6. AB 20

Mr. Jacobsen asked if many of the members have had complaints. It is his belief we have been saving a considerable amount of money but asked the members if they had any comments - good, bad or indifferent.

Mr. Torvinen advised he had complaints we didn't start getting bills out until the third week though the people returned the cards as soon as they got them.

Mr. Jacobsen: The problem with the postcard system, though it really worked, was instead of making plates over here we took the lists to Reno because the man didn't have the facilities to make all the plates here, and the cards laid in Reno a couple of days. I am still of the opinion by next Session we should make some provision to handle this whole situation lock, stock and barrel.

Mr. Torvinen: Your secretaries could make the cards in two hours.

Mr. Jacobsen: I wasn't aware until a week went by that they sat down here in the Carson post office. They worry about third class mail when they have nothing else to do. I went to the Postmaster to mark each individual bag with special handling, so as of that time it really speeded up. One of the problems arose by the fact they were sending the mail by truck to Las Vegas and took three days to get there - Elko, two days - and when bags were not special marked they went from pillar to post before anyone handled them.

Mr. Young: I'm told now it is going smoothly but it really was difficult to get started. We were talking about this last night and someone was complaining we were talking a week on the bills before mailing was received.

Mr. Bremner to Mr. Jacobsen: Can you give me an indication of the number we are mailing to now compared to in the past?

Mr. Jacobsen: About one-half.

Mr. Bremner: That is good.

Mr. Jacobsen: Eric Kronkite requested about 150 bills and was somewhat upset. I told the gentleman in the bill room that anyone who had a request over 25 copies to send the request to me. If you want to overrule that, it is alright. I haven't turned one down yet, but we can get them from the printing office this way. Eric thought the agencies shouldn't go through this procedure.

Mr. Ashworth: We can cut down our expenses on printing this way and we can keep a control on it.

Mr. Jacobsen: Any other complaints?

No other complaints were mentioned. Mr. Jacobsen commented that some were damaged on the way but we were able to get others on the way.

Mr. Jacobsen advised that under Section 5 they have cut down the free service to a few. He read the list, stating they took off quite a few - county commissioners, board commissioners, etc. - adding they process these through on an individual basis. He stated the only ones they put restrictions on, if we pass this, is any individual can write the printing office and request only two copies of each bill - but that doesn't mean they can write for two copies of each bill.

Mr. Torvinen: Move "Do Pass."

Mr. Mello: Seconded

Committee Action: Unanimous approval.

7. A.C.R. #8

Chairman Brookman advised Mr. Hickey came to testify for the bill. She advised there are three bills dealing with hospital rates and if this resolution should come back this would hold them in abeyance.

Mr. Torvinen: In past years we have held all these study resolutions until the last week of the Session and would meet with the Senate to compare all our resolutions to see if we were going to overload our commission and the Committee all agreed jointly with the Senate Committee which ones we would put through on the basis of the estimated workload the Counsel Bureau could handle. Not that I'm saying we shouldn't pass this through at this time.

Mr. Jacobsen: Agreed.

Mr. Ashworth: Agreed.

Mr. Jacobsen: In our old minutes records, there is a schedule of each of these that are introduced and asked us to establish our own priority.

Mr. Mello: You can pass all the resolutions you want and yet legislative committees do what they want but the priority is set by the commission. I sometimes wonder if this doesn't hold them up.

Mr. Hickey: I really have no objection. I would like to have the Committee consider this high priority study because of the needs of the population of the State.

Mr. Ashworth: I believe Mr. Torvinen's remarks are well taken, though I don't believe we should wait until the last week. I believe about 15 April all resolutions should be in and I think it would be best to get it done about the 15th of April to meet on the other side, call joint meeting of staff to decide what to do at that time.

Mr. Hickey: May I have a notification when you meet?

Mrs. Brookman and Mr. Ashworth both agreed he may have notice.

Mr. Mello: What date?

Mr. Ashworth: It would be my indication to hold them until about the 15th of April unless there is an emergency. I think you are going to have to play it by ear.

Chairman Brookman: I was asked to do this one because there are three bills.

Mr. Ashworth: If there is a need for it, put it out.

Chairman Brookman: I would like to take action on A.C.R. #8.

Mr. Jacobsen: Since Mr. Hickey is here, do so; but have a chart in front of our books and establish our own priority and each one of us individually will have to argue for his own priority.

Mr. Mello: We could pass ours and let the Senate pass theirs and each hold one another's studies, and then ask each other if there is a need to get together.

Mr. Hickey: We are talking about a new field for the State of Nevada. The problem lies in the lack of information in all fields in regards to hospitals, hospital costs and rates. This goes as far as knowing who the corporations are, the expenses and costs in the hospitals, and even the very fact the question is it is very questionable at the present time to make any determination of how to tackle the problem of increased costs of hospitals. This study is vitally needed to help us build some kind of a structure to alleviate this tremendous problem in the State of Nevada.

Mr. Torvinen: I don't know much about this area but it appears to me this kind of study has some of the same problems as studying the Industrial Insurance Commission, and I would guess to get any meaningful information we would have to take one of our legislative auditors and put him on it 8 - 9 months or appropriate money to do it. I don't believe a Committee of 6 or 7 legislators have the expertise or time to get into the real nitty gritty of this situation which is probably a lot of accounting work. I throw this out, not as an opposition to your objective, but whether we are to borrow one of our auditors on it or make an appropriation.

Mr. Hickey: One of our problems which occurred when we asked for investigation through the Insurance Commission was there was a lack of information as regards to rates. The insurance and health fields they have no way of checking the costs. They could have an expert in this particular field and it does take an expert, I agree with you in this hospital cost. I'm not sure if just an auditor is qualified to handle this particular problem.

Mr. Torvinen: I believe we will have to put an appropriation through

Mr. Hickey: I am sure this is a decision you will have to make.

Mr. Mello: All we do is put an appropriation on it and send it over.

Mr. Hickey: You are talking about a field that really requires an expert.

Mr. Mello: You should find out it will cost to consider his qualifications, consider travel, and clerical help.

Mr. Hickey: A rough figure came out about \$20,000.

Mr. Mello: You'll never do it - that will probably be his salary alone.

Mr. Torvinen: I think we ought to try to set a time for this measure - get some people or insurance people over here and maybe some independent rating firm who would be willing to send a man up gratis to put his pitch in.

Mr. Hickey: What we are really building is a wheel and it is a problem.

Mr. Torvinen: I believe we should hear some testimony.

Chairman Brookman: Next Tuesday I asked a couple of chairmen to let me set in some time.

Mr. Torvinen: Can we get them here by next Tuesday?

Chairman Brookman: I will see how long it takes and put it on agenda.

8. ANNUAL SESSIONS

Chairman Brookman advised she had been asked for a hearing on annual sessions. Mr. Young asked her why she wanted to have a hearing on that. She replied because she was asked by the introducers, who want to come in and give testimony. The Committee agreed introducers are entitled to give testimony when they so desire.

9. SUBCOMMITTEES

Chairman Brookman asked Mr. Bremner and Mr. Jacobsen if they would work on a subcommittee to see if they could come up with something good for another session to handle their mailings, advising she has written to other states to see what their problems and solutions are.

Chairman Brookman asked Mr. Torvinen and Mr. Mello to work on a subcommittee to look at pay schedules, advising she has written to other states to see what they are doing.

10. LEGISLATIVE RINGS AND PINS

Mr. Fraser: Going back about a year ago, Roy Taylor and I worked together with another firm. We talked to Keith Ashworth and Mahlon Brown about the idea of designing something specifically for the legislators of Nevada. Everyone we talked to liked the idea. All we do is custom designing.

Mr. Ashworth: I suggested he get up here this morning and he did, making an appointment with us. We have a similar appointment this afternoon with Senator Monroe at Senator Brown's suggestion.

Mr. Fraser showed pictures of the rings they have designed. He emphasized these were only suggestions and if anyone had any thoughts, they would be welcomed. On one side of the ring would appear "One Sound State" and on the other side "Battle Born." One shank would show the individual's name and the state seal. The other side showed the silver state and inside it each county was shown as well as the county seat. The year of statehood is also shown. The top of the ring is where the two houses are designated -- Nevada on one side and Senator on the other, or Nevada on one side and Assemblyman on the other. A blue stone is inserted in the top and diamonds set around the stone would indicate the number of terms - one small diamond for each term would be set beside the blue stone. The ring would be sent back to the plant to incorporate another diamond for each additional term that was served and the ring would be completely refinished. On the 5th term, the diamonds would not be on the sides of the blue stone, but would be replaced with a larger diamond set inside of the large blue stone. On the 6th term, the big one remains and then one diamond on the side, with a small one added on each side for each additional term, etc. One other suggestion he made, though he stated it was strictly up to them, would be that inside the blue stone in white gold would be a Republican elephant or a Democratic donkey, or they could go with the letters "D" or "R". He stated Mr. Ashworth had another suggestion this morning - the idea that perhaps an individual might want to have his initials encrusted in the stone.

He stated the above were suggestions and are individual and they could tell him what they would like on it. But he stated Mr. Ashworth wanted them there this morning to give them an idea of what they had come up with to see if they had any suggestions.

Chairman Brookman: How much? Do you make lapel pins? Can they be made with pendants?

Mr. Fraser showed her a special one they had designed for women, stating it was more fragile since the one illustrated would be too bulky for a woman.

Mr. Ashworth: You might indicate how many other states do this.

Mr. Fraser: We've kept this under wraps so no other states would do it before we do.

Chairman Brookman: I've seen dozens of them.

Mr. Fraser: We don't do them.

Mr. Ashworth: I know a lot do it without being sanctioned by the State. Sometimes they are personal gifts given to someone. I would like to give the Committee some background. These gentlemen approached me just before and right after the November election. I

told them I thought it was a good idea for them to come up with a suggested design, which they have done, and we want to present it to both Legislative Functions Committees for the purpose of drawing a resolution authorizing them to do it, and only for those if a person wants to do it. It makes a good gift for a loved one to give a husband or wife and it is a nice gift to pass on to your family after you are gone. I endorse the idea and made some suggestions.

Chairman Brookman: I asked for the price and do you have a brochure?

Mr. Fraser: No, we are just in the art work stages. We will have actual pictures. The cost - this month: one diamond, as an example - \$160. Two years, add \$20 for each diamond. To send it back next year for another diamond and reconditioning, \$26.00.

11. AR 11

Chairman Brookman advised Senator Brown would like a "Do Pass" on AR 11. There has been a confusion whether the 40 days meant 40 days or 40 calendar days.

Mr. Bremner: Move "Do Pass."

Mr. Jacobsen: Seconded.

Committee Action: Unanimous approval.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 12:13 P.M.

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Marion Smith
Assembly Attache