

MINUTES

Assembly

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE - NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE - 57th SESSION

April 11, 1973

Meeting called to order at 7:10PM by Chairman Mello in the Assembly Ways and Means Committee Room.

PRESENT: Chairman Mello, Vice-Chairman Schofield, Messrs. Dreyer, Robinson, Capurro, Hafen, Howard, Smith and Prince.

ALSO PRESENT: John Dolan, Randy Webb and Ron Sparks.

Motion to approve the minutes of the morning meeting of April 11, 1973, made by Mr. Howard. Second by Messrs. Schofield & Dreyer. Motion passed. Nays: Mr. Capurro.

A.B. 741: (Creation of Economic Opportunity Department). Mr. Howard relayed to the Committee a news story which he heard regarding a Court ruling on the President's decision to eliminate the Office of Economic Opportunity. It was found that the President did not have the power to terminate the program because it was created by Congress. Mr. Howard stated there never was a need for the program. Mr. Howard moved for an indefinite postponement. Second by Mr. Smith. MOTION PASSED - INDEFINITE POSTPONEMENT.

Committee decision to reopen the budget for the Aid to Children. Mr. Schofield moved that the Committee rescind its decision and lower the ADC grant back to the Governor's Recommendation of \$42.00. Second by Mr. Howard. Chairman Mello stated that he had a few comments he would like to make before the vote is taken.

"Before we have the question, I feel this is one area that we should have probably taken a real good look at. In the fact that we gave the Foster Children more money, \$100 to \$150, because of the reasons stated by Senate Finance, which I agree with, the fact that it costs more money now to feed these kids, and I can't see any reason why it should cost more money to feed Foster Children and not children on ADC.

Now, I believe that if you look into the budgets in the areas that we are supposed to open by adding from \$42 to \$47 there is probably ample money in there; and, I believe if you go by the fiscal analyst and the research they have done you will find that the money is there.

If you will also look, I have the figures here, of the money we have cut from the Administrative Budget, 73-74 \$559,502 and 74-75 \$961,206; total of \$1,563,308. This is for all budgets closed.

Perhaps it is a little late in the session to be getting into something like this but it is not the fault of the children that they are on welfare. It is not the fault that they are going to be taken care

April 11, 1973

of by Foster Parents, that they don't have parents. When you look at one and justify the fact that it costs more to feed them and you look at the other and you try to justify in your own minds it does not cost as much, if not more, to support these kids that are on welfare.

I know by opening the budget that you open up many areas of the budget and support many of the areas of the budget and support many areas of the budget in Welfare, but at the same time consider the fact that these kids through no fault of their own have a Mother that is on Welfare."

Chairman Mello then called for a question. The Committee voted 5-4 to close the budget according to the Governor's Recommendation.

Division of State Parks, page 463: Chairman Mello stated that it appears that Senate Finance cut the budget in the following areas: radio (\$35,000); Secretary unit (\$968); and Calculator and Adding Marchine (\$800). Giving a total reduction of \$36,768.

Mr. Capurro stated that since we are going along with Senate Finance tonight we might as well go along with them on this too.

Chairman Mello stated that we don't have to go along with them. And, that he couldn't see any rhyme or reason for it.

Mr. Hafen stated that they were dealing in round figures again.

Chairman Mello stated that it was hard to go along with the Senate if they just indiscriminately cut the money out. He had heard, from down the hall, that they were upset about the radios. And, that they didn't even question the second year.

Mr. Smith made reference to A.B. 726 which Assemblywoman Ford spoke to the Committee about.

Chairman Mello gave a brief recap of Mrs. Ford's remarks to the Committee.

Mr. Robinson moved for an indefinite postponement. Second by Mr. Capurro. Motion failed.

Chairman Mello pointed out that Clark County does have the greatest portion of the population there.

Mr. Hafen stated that he felt an office was justified down there because of the various programs that are proposed for that area and the present park areas.

Chairman Mello stated that they do have about 60% of the population living in Clark County, and that they do have the most tourism influx in the State.

Mr. Schofield stated that they also pay the most taxes in the State too.

Mr. Robinson moved for a do pass. Second by Mr. Howard. Motion passed.

Mr. Howard moved to go along with the Senate Finance Committee's recommendations. Second by Mr. Dreyer. Nays: Mr. Robinson and Mr. Capurro. Motion passed.

Mr. Arthur Palmer then appeared on behalf of the Legislative Counsel Bureau and the five budgets contained in that department.

Fiscal & Auditing Division:

Contract Services; programing expense for putting the Division on the State Computer.

Other Contract Services (equipment); purchase of a MTST typewriter and Xerox machine.

EDP: auditape for testing of computer for correct printouts and retrieval.

The position of Chief Deputy Fiscal Analyst is actually transferred to the new section within the Research Division.

Legislative Commission: This would involve to a certain extent the studies; staff support would come out of the other three divisions of the Counsel Bureau.

Out-of-State Travel: The thought is that we have not participated in some of the inter-state meetings and have not been able to talk with other legislators. This is just a proposal and may not be expended.

Art Acquisition: In the past art expenditures have been paid out of the legislative fund now it will be paid out of the legislative commission fund. This pays for rent and acquisitions of art.

Contract Services: To provide money for contracts in connection with studies.

Money not expended for travel will revert to the Printing and Binding Fund.

Legal Division: Work figures actually show less than the requested amount because some of the positions were not filled. Division has had problems building the staff back up since the last session.

Building Maintenance: \$7,000 increase. Has developed from the fact that the Buildings & Grounds does not have the capability of servicing the new buildings (heating, air conditioning, etc.).

New positions: Editor Trainee; only have one person doing this job, new position would be as a trainee to be used as back-up.

Four of the eight present positions on the legal staff will be asked to stay on. No choice has been made as to who the four will be.

S.B. 594 creates the Research Division, Fiscal Section.

Chairman Mello voiced his opposition to the reasoning of the Legislative Commission on the salary of the Chief Deputy Budget Analyst and the two Deputy Budget Analysts.

It is Chairman Mello's contention that this position should not be considered a "new" position. It is actually a position that has been transferred from the Fiscal & Audit Division of the Bureau. He also contends that there is no correlation between the salary of the Chief Deputy Researcher and the Chief Deputy Budget Analyst.

To be able to hire a qualified person for this position of Chief Deputy (which in reality is being filled presently by John Dolan) it would take a salary of at least \$19,900.

It is also Chairman Mello's feeling that the two Deputy Budget Analysts should receive a salary of \$18,000 each.

Mr. Robinson moved that the salary for the Chief Deputy Budget Analyst be set at \$19,900 and that Ron Sparks be nominated for that position. Second by Mr. Hafen. Motion passed.

Mr. Capurro moved that the salaries for the two Deputy Budget Analysts be set at \$18,000 each. Second by Mr. Robinson. Motion passed.

Printing and Binding Fund: Only asking for a general fund appropriation of \$52,200 for the first year of the biennium. After that time the fund should be self-supporting.

Mr. Howard moved that all five budgets be closed with the approved amendments. Second by Mr. Robinson. Motion passed.

Real Estate Subdivision Fund, page 407: Decision to hold for outcome of SB 459.

Public Employees Retirement Administration Fund, page 539: Motion to approve Governor's Recommendation by Mr. Schofield. Second by Mr. Howard. Motion passed. Mr. Sparks brought to the attention of the committee the fact that adequate funds were not requested for the EDP increase. Mr. Howard moved to amend the budget to include the additional amounts of \$42,000 for FY 73-74 and \$45,000 for FY 74-75. Second by Mr. Dreyer. Motion passed.

Break taken at 8:50 PM for 10 minutes.

Senator Lamb appeared on behalf of S.B. 587: It is felt that this bill is necessary because of the uncertainty regarding federal funding of different on-going programs in the State. This would increase the Contingency Fund to a total of \$2.5 million. Passage of this bill would probably also lessen the likelihood of a special session of the legislature.

Mr. Capurro moved for a do pass. Second by Mr. Schofield. Motion passed.

S.B. 389: This bill would provide the needed studies and testing of the State's water system to provide adequate service to the State building.

Move do pass by Mr. Prince. Second by Mr. Schofield. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.