

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES
JANUARY 24, 1973

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. Senator Lamb was in the chair.

PRESENT: Floyd Lamb, Chairman
B. Mahlon Brown
Warren L. Monroe
Archie Pozzi
William Raggio
Clifton Young
James Gibson
Carl Dodge, Senator
Cy Ryan, UPI
Earl Oliver, Legislative Fiscal Analyst
Bob Tripp, Deputy Legislative Auditor
Howard Barrett, Dept. of Administration
James Wittenberg, Personnel Administrator
Gene Pieretti, Management Analyst
Theil Martin, Motor Pool
Mike Metzler, Buildings and Grounds
Joe Hamerneck, Buildings and Grounds

PERSONNEL DIVISION BUDGET:

Mr. Wittenberg said that there has been a change in employer/employee relationships in that the Personnel Division has been required to negotiate far more. This change began taking place as recently as five years ago and is a reflection that government is going through what industry went through in the thirties with regard to labor problems. Employees are exercising their rights to appeal more frequently. The Personnel Division used to receive twelve appeals per year and are now receiving twice that many in a month. He said they needed more staff to be on top of this.

Senator Brown noticed that there had been a 175% increase in applications for jobs and asked how many they now had on file. Mr. Wittenberg stated they had 60,000 last year and because they keep applications for over a year they have approximately 75,000 on file now. Senator Brown stated that in private industry if they had that many applications they would not be in the market for hiring and perhaps it was not efficient to build up a backlog of applications which wouldn't be used. Mr. Wittenberg said at any given time if they had a vacancy for which they did not have applications on file for a variety of work they would then initiate recruitment. He said they have fewer announcements for

examinations than any time before, and that after they had a file of applications for a particular job they cut it off. He said if they got applications in the mail they had a duty to process them and this was the philosophy in the past. Now, however, if there are sufficient applicants for a position who have already been processed they merely acknowledge receipt of the application and file it for future use. Three years ago they used to evaluate each application but this has been discontinued.

Senator Raggio asked why there were three times as many applications in 1972-73 as there were in 1969 and whether we were making these positions too attractive. Mr. Wittenberg stated that during times of high unemployment such as we are currently experiencing the state tended to receive a higher volume of applications. He went on to say that during such periods individuals might apply for eight to ten positions which would make this figure seem higher than it actually was.

Senator Gibson asked how many people were actually hired, and Mr. Wittenberg replied that there had been 3,600 hired during the last two year period.

Mr. Barrett pointed out that during the last biennium 70 to 75 people were employed under the federal Emergency Employment Act for which no general fund monies were expended. This was a federal program to help alleviate unemployment with emphasis on minority, veterans and high unemployment groups. It was a temporary program whose funds will definitely stop July 1, 1973, and is not one of the areas where federal money will be pulled out because it was planned to be terminated at that time. Throughout the budget these positions are scattered due to the fact that various state agencies are now requesting that they be funded by the State of Nevada after July 1, 1973. The agencies involved are not requesting that all positions be retained, just some of them. Mr. Barrett did not have a list outlining which positions were involved or how many but said he would provide the committee with one. If the legislature decided not to fund part or all of these positions the individuals filling them would be laid off after July 1 when federal funding is no longer available.

Senator Gibson asked how high movement was within state positions due to transfers and promotions. Mr. Wittenberg replied that it was about ten percent within a year but was higher now because during a recession people would accept a job lower than their potential and then would move up as openings became available.

ART COMMITTEE:

Senator Dodge, who is chairman of the art committee established two years ago to select art to hang in the

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Legislative Building, requested that the Senate Finance Committee appropriate \$1,200 for the rental of pictures. This \$1,200 rental price would then be applied toward the purchase price of the art selected by the legislature. He stated that two years ago they had money in the furnishings and building fund and were able to handle the rental and acquisitions from that fund in the past, but there are no such funds provided during this session. Senator Dodge added that the art committee suggested renting the paintings until the end of the session so the legislators could decide which paintings they liked best. Senator Raggio moved to allot \$1,200 for the rental and subsequent purchase of art to hang in the Legislative Building. It passed unanimously.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS:

The Buildings and Grounds Division justified their request for additional personnel by stating there were new DMV and welfare buildings in Las Vegas, a new DMV building in Reno, a proposed new building in Carson City, and currently fifty-seven thousand square feet of office rental space in Carson City. In addition it was pointed out that employees were dealing with increased complexity in electrical systems and heating and air conditioning units. Mr. Barrett pointed out that during the last fiscal year Buildings and Grounds returned only \$1,000 to the general fund, which he said was an indication of a very tight budget.

RETIREMENT INCREASE:

Senator Gibson asked why the retirement assessment was up 64%. Mr. Barrett stated that it was due to the fact that in preparing the budget they wrote in increases in anticipation of the 5% increase in salaries. If the legislature does not approve this increase the retirement assessment, etc., will be adjusted. He also mentioned that the group insurance contributions were higher than they would actually be because they had anticipated an increase of 15% the first year and 15% the second year. Since the budget was prepared they have received a guarantee of no increase the first year and 10% the second year. They have made this adjustment in the back of the budget.

LEASES:

Senator Gibson asked why the office rental rate was higher in Carson City. Mr. Barrett said that leases have various rates. He stated that the Sutro Building in Reno has a very cheap rental rate of 25¢ a square foot. Some leases

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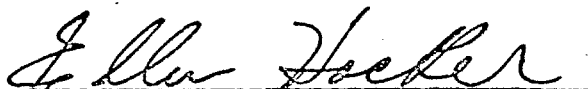
include total services and some don't. Space in Las Vegas for the Rehabilitation Division covered warehouse space that they are not charged for. Warehousing for the Purchasing Division is also cheaper than the office space rentals. In Carson City rentals are predominantly for office space which is more than on warehousing or converted warehousing.

MOTOR POOL:

Mr. Barrett stated that motor pool rates were increased last year because they were trying to get the rates up high enough to buy new cars instead of replacement cars. In addition they requested funding for a chauffeur and a shuttle bus to meet and deliver employees to all Air West flights. This would create a savings to the state because in the past each individual employee has been driving to the airport, tying up a car for four or five days, and paying \$1 a day for parking. Each employee would call to make a reservation on the shuttle service and the agency would be billed \$2 for each one way trip.

The meeting adjourned at 10:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Secretary

APPROVED:


Floyd Lamb, Chairman