

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
APRIL 17, 1973

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. Senator Lamb was in the chair.

PRESENT: Floyd R. Lamb, Chairman
Warren L. Monroe
B. Mahlon Brown
James I. Gibson
William J. Raggio
Clifton Young
Archie Pozzi

Earl Oliver, LCB Fiscal Analyst
Bob Tripp, LCB Deputy Legislative Auditor
John Dolan, Chief Deputy Fiscal Analyst, LCB
Howard Barrett, Budget Director
Cy Ryan, UPI
Assemblyman Zel Lowman
Assemblyman Rawson Prince

A.B. 816:

SUMMARY: Creates child care services division in department of health, welfare and rehabilitation.

The committee felt that there should be an expression of interest in day care and Senator Raggio drew up an amendment which will express this. This bill will be held until the bill comes back with that amendment.

A.C.R. 60:

SUMMARY: Memorializes board of regents of University of Nevada System to offer baccalaureate degree program in criminal justice.

Senator Lamb said they had already put it in the budgets. Senator Raggio said the other reason for the bill was because the baccalaureate degree program in criminal justice hadn't been established. Senator Young asked, "Why do we need it?" Senator Monroe said, "You don't need that."

Senator Raggio moved they recommend do pass. Senator Monroe seconded the motion, and only Senator Raggio voted in favor of it so it failed. Senators Gibson and Pozzi were absent. Senator Brown said, "You have already got it in the budget."

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A.B. 726:

SUMMARY: Makes appropriation to division of state parks of state department of conservation and natural resources.

This would provide a position to establish a district office in Las Vegas. Mr. Barrett said it was not an administration bill but was put in by people who felt they should have such an office in Las Vegas as this was left out of the budget. Senator Lamb said, "Why do we do these kind of things?"

Senator Young moved they recommend do pass. Senator Brown seconded the motion, and it failed with only Senators Young, Brown, Monroe voting yes.

A.B. 807:

SUMMARY: Makes Southern Nevada children's home separate division in department of health, welfare and rehabilitation.

Mr. Barrett said this was part of the reorganization that Mr. Trounday had requested to separate the two childrens homes. Now they are being administered by one individual and they need an administrator for each home. Senator Lamb said, "It's almost unworkable now isn't it." Mr. Barrett replied yes.

Senator Brown moved they recommend do pass. Senator Young seconded the motion, and it passed.

yes - Senators Brown, Young, Lamb, Raggio
no - Senators Pozzi, Monroe
absent - Senator Gibson

Senator Gibson entered the meeting then at 8:20 a.m.

A.B. 950:

SUMMARY: Establishes county medically indigent relief fund in state's general fund; provides for partial payment of claims of counties therefrom for medical care provided poor persons.

Senator Raggio said this bill deserved consideration as it had passed the assembly. Mr. Barrett said this bill would refund to the counties 50% of their total cost of their medical aid to the indigents. It is, in the budget, and

not

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the counties could have their medical program and set their own criteria for payments and the state would simply refund half of this cost with no involvement in setting criteria. Mr. Barrett said, "We felt there is relief in the budget to counties through the title 19 program which provides for the aged, ADC and disabled recipients. This program was increased from \$13 million to \$19 million a year for Title 19. This will take care of more of their medical costs. These people must be taken care of by somebody and in all probability it must be the county, and there has got to be some relief for them in the title 19 budget. We are strongly recommending against passage of A.B. 950, as we felt at some further date if there should be relief in the medically indigent area it should at least be handled in such a manner through the state so the state can qualify for 50% federal funds and pass them onto the county instead of the manner in A.B. 950 without federal matching funds."

Senator Brown moved that they kill this bill. Senator Monroe seconded the motion, and it was killed.

yes - Senators Brown, Monroe, Gibson, Lamb
no - Senators Pozzi, Raggio, Young

Senator Raggio said, "We need help in Washoe County. The people in county administration have urged us to do this because they need the money."

A.B. 953:

SUMMARY: Clarifies rights of certain former legislators with regard to legislators' retirement system.

Senator Gibson said, "We have had several of these before us and we have always turned them down. I think this picks up one guy. I can cite Bruce Parks as an example from Mineral County and we always turned him down. I assume they would get credit for whatever service they had. They were not in the legislature when the system was created."

Senator Gibson moved they kill this bill. Senator Monroe seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

A.B. 687:

SUMMARY: Abolishes employment security fund and creates employment security revolving fund.

Senator Monroe moved they recommend do pass. Senator Gibson said, "I think this is that special fund that he has. It

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is my understanding that this is a special fund which has no accountability on it." Mr. Barrett said he knew nothing about it. They decided to call Assemblyman Prince in to testify on this.

A.B. 580:

SUMMARY: Increases number of district judges in Washoe County.

Senator Gibson said, "I wasn't clear on that one judges bill which would eliminate one judge. If we pass this we will still have the same number of district judges?" Senator Raggio said, "You won't have the same number unless you say the same date." I think you should give the county time to prepare for this. The county just isn't equipped at this point and would just as soon have the same number of judges." Senator Young said, "I agree."

Senator Raggio said he moved to amend the bill to make it effective 1975. They decided to take this bill back to the printer as it has a mistake on it. They took no action on the amendment.

S.B. 639:

SUMMARY: Requires commissioner of consumer affairs to adopt regulations providing for uniform retail designations of ground beef and cuts of beef.

Senator Pozzi said, "I think it would be a mistake to put this into the consumer affairs division." Senator Lamb said, "It is a consumer problem, and we thought they could handle it." Senator Raggio said, "Doesn't it make more sense to have it done by the health department?" Senator Monroe said, "You better decide what you are going to do to have consumer affairs division before you pass this." Senator Lamb said, "Otherwise the health department will be doing it and so will consumer affairs."

A.B. 301:

SUMMARY: Creates consumer affairs division of department of commerce and regulates deceptive trade practices.

Senator Lamb said, "Off the record I got a story that they don't need the secretary or chief assistant in this bill. The story told me is she didn't need these two people."

Senator Lamb said she had no objection to the bill.

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Senator Brown said, "But you have already agreed on personnel with assembly ways and means." Senator Brown moved that they recommend do pass. Senator Gibson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Senator Pozzi said, "That budget will be \$300,000 when you come back here next year."

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A.B. 639:

SUMMARY: Requires commissioner of consumer affairs to adopt regulations providing for uniform retail designations of ground beef and cuts of beef.

Senator Monroe moved they recommend do pass. Senator Gibson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:

Senator Raggio said, "I keep getting asked every day what we have done regarding the attorney general's office and the truckee river litigation (involving the DiGeorgio lumber company)." Senator Lamb said, "We put \$75,000 in the conservation budget for that, plus it seems we did give him some money." Mr. Barrett said they had put \$75,000 in the water resources budget for legal matters. Senator Raggio mentioned that he (the attorney general) had already spent \$50,000 for this and if he wasn't reimbursed it would have to come out of his general budget.

S.B. 632:

SUMMARY: Provides longevity pay for certain judicial officers.

Senator Gibson said, "I got asked to hold this one one more day. The problem is some people feel 1-1/2% per year is a little extravagant. They would like to resolve that. They feel a 30% increase is too much." Senator Raggio said that the 30% increase would be over 20 years though. Senator Gibson said he got the 1-1/2% figure from the service (military). Senator Raggio said that whatever we do we ought to be consistent. Senator Gibson said that if they approved this the judges would be able to go back over their years of service and get credit for all past years. Senator Young said, "I agree that it would be a little excessive."

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A.B. 687:

SUMMARY: Abolishes employment security fund and creates employment security revolving fund.

Assemblyman Prince said, "This sum of money is accumulated in the unemployment benefit department. It accrues from interest and penalties assessed from the employer contribution to the fund. This fund according to the way the law was written has lain dormant in employment security to be used as the director saw fit. It has never been audited and I think its now \$240,000. We first introduced this bill to abolish the fund and make all the money to go back to benefit the people who were contributing to it. Apparently the director has quite a lot of obligations for this fund. He has had some plans drawn up for a new building, and so what we've done is to make a revolving fund out of that so that anything over \$200,000 reverts back into the benefit fund, and this fund has to be audited."

Senator Lamb said that two private people who were responsible had said there is a terrific waste of money over there. Assemblyman Prince said, "We wrote a letter to the legislative council asking that they be audited periodically."

Senator Lamb said, "Is it true that anybody who has lost his job for embezzling can get unemployment?" Assemblyman Prince said they could. He continued, "They tell me over at the unemployment office they hire retired army people that will work and when they lay them off they get unemployment. Four years ago unemployment cost \$12 million and last year it was \$26,500,000, and they are making it a welfare fund. Everybody who contributes to the fund is up to 2.7 now. The fund has gotten so low they raised contributors to 2.7, and we had a bill here awhile back that would have raised it to 3.2. The committee wouldn't go for that and said let's tighten up on what we've got." Senator Pozzi said, "This is another slush fund and we ought to pass this bill out of committee."

Senator Pozzi moved they approve this bill for do pass. Senator Gibson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Assemblyman Prince said that another one of his bills was to require that people receiving unemployment go to the office and sign up each week unless they lived in an outlying district and it was too difficult. He said that three years ago they had changed that to allow them to send in a verification by mail, but that he felt this wasn't working well.

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Senator Lamb said, "I have a cousin who is a cat skinner. He works just so long to set this up and just quits and goes to Alamo and fishes and messes around, and doesn't get out of his rocking chair."

A.B. 32:

SUMMARY: Authorizes work release program for state prisoners.

Senator Gibson moved they recommend do pass. Senator Brown said, "They have been trying to introduce this for years."

Assemblyman Lowman said, "This bill is a work release program which allows for selected people or inmates at the state prison to work outside the prison prior to their release." The warden of the prison and the head of the probation and parole department would select the inmates for this. They would work outside and come back in the evenings. If they worked in Clark County they would return to the jail and would pay their board and room from their salaries earned. Assemblyman Lowman said, "The testimony we had from the U.S. Bureau of Prisons is that this is very successful, and in the 23 counties of California 2,250 people involved in the program were approximately twice as successful as those who were not in the program. This does cut recidivism. Studies in California and Nebraska indicate that the states have been receiving three times the cost of the program due to the amount of taxes paid by the inmates on their salaries. Both the warden and the chief of probation and parole approve this bill, and the Jaycees have agreed that they will help find the jobs, provide transportation, etc." The ways and means committee added about \$4,000 more to this bringing the cost to \$18,000 which Mr. Dolan said was for a salary for a staff position in parole and probation to supervise the program, travel, locate jobs, etc.

There is \$2,500 in a revolving fund to loan inmates money for tools, clothing, haircuts, etc., needed on their jobs. These funds would be paid back. Senator Lamb said, "Let the minutes show that the committee intends the money be paid back."

Assemblyman Lowman said that the number of men in this program wouldn't be large, probably about twenty, and that Warden Hocker had said he would be very selective about who he chose to participate in this.

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Senator Raggio said, "Its a little hard for me to accept the concept that a person commits a crime and goes to prison, that he can then get off that day and go to college." (The bill provides for vocational and technical education.) Senator Brown said, "As with any rehabilitation, this is a step in the right direction." Senator Raggio said, "You are never going to get me to believe that the only purpose of a prison is rehabilitation." Assemblyman Lowman said, "This act is limited to the last six months of a man's prison term." Senator Raggio said, "I would like to have that qualification in the bill that it applies only to the last six months." Senator Brown said, "Can't you make this part of your minutes here and let that serve as intent?" Assemblyman Lowman said they drew the bill to give as much leeway as possible to the administration, and said it has proved effective in about 38 states."

Senator Monroe said, "At this state of the game unless you really have to I would hate to send bills back." Senator Brown said, "I don't think there is any justification." Senator Raggio said, "I don't want to be part of a plan where you send someone to prison and it is a joke. The ones that go to prison are not the first offenders, they can be the fifth or sixth." Senator Gibson said, "This thing is not going to have unanimous support when it comes to the floor. I don't think that amendment would hurt it any."

The committee decided to send the bill to the bill drafters to have amendments prepared limiting the program to the last six months of a prisoner's term or sentence and to state that the loans from the \$2,500 revolving fund must be paid back.

CLOUD SEEDING - DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION: SB646

The Desert Research Institute recommended putting \$80,000 each year in the department of conservation's budget for cloud seeding. However, the committee felt that this money should be put in a special bill because it would be a one-shot item and didn't want the money to be absorbed into their budget or inflate their budget at the next session of the legislature. They wanted the funds earmarked for this purpose.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

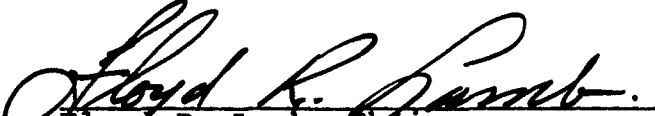
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Respectfully submitted,

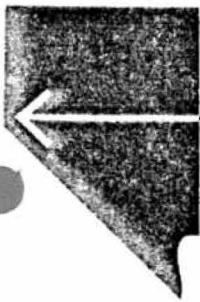


Ellen Hocker, Secretary

APPROVED:



Floyd R. Lamb, Chairman



CARSON CITY
Jaycees
Box 257, Carson City, Nev. 89701

April 17, 1973

Senator Floyd Lamb
Chairman of the
Senate Finance Committee
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Senator Lamb:

The Jaycees of the State of Nevada have overwhelmingly endorsed ~~Assembly Bill 32~~ for a Prisoner Work Release Program. First in ~~January~~ at their Model Legislature held in Carson City and, again, when AB 32 was introduced to the Assembly Ways and Means, Finance, and Judiciary Committees in Joint Session. Nearly every Jaycee Chapter and the Nevada Jaycees State Board took the time, to write each of their representatives, to voice their support of the Work Release Program.

We feel that this one program can do more for corrections in Nevada than any or all other programs used in the last 100 years. Work Release is working in over 40 other states with a reduction in Recidivism better than twice that of standard parole programs. The results speak for themselves and the savings to the tax structure and welfare system almost make it pay for itself!

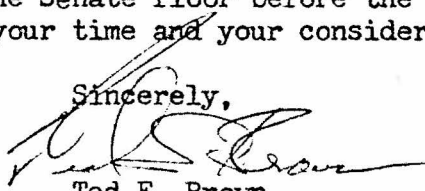
Nevada needs Assembly Bill 32 now! It has been supported by the Nevada State Prison Administration and the Nevada Jaycees have offered to help make the necessary jobs available.

I understand that the only strong opposition comes from a representative of the Nevada AFL-CIO. I have to believe that he is speaking of his own personal prejudice. Because the United States AFL-CIO has voiced it's support of Prisoner Work Release Programs time and time again. Initially the program will only allow the release of 20 or so inmates. Hardly a severe blow to unemployment in Nevada. I haven't been able to find any evidence that the Work Release Program is harmful to the state employment picture in anyway.

Most of the inmates of the Nevada State Prison will be released sooner or later. We are asking that they be given the opportunity to remain crime free and to become useful citizens. AB 32 is twice as effective in meeting that end!

The Jaycees of Nevada would be more than grateful if you could be of assistance in getting AB 32 on the Senate floor before the end of the current session. Thank you for your time and your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,


Ted E. Brown
Chrm. Crime & Corrections
Nevada Jaycees
President elect

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