

Assembly

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE HEARING
February 5, 1975

Gardnerville, Nv.

Purpose: Exchange of information between Assembly Agriculture Committee and agriculture representatives.

Committee Members Present: Hickey, Price, Coulter, Jeffrey, Getto, Robinson, and Howard

Other Legislators Present: Ashworth, Jacobsen, and Young

Speakers: Mr. Herb Witt
Mr. Jack White
Mr. Dwayne Mack
Mr. Louis Bergiven
Mr. Fred Dressler
Mr. Wally Peterson, Co. Extension Agent
Mr. Andy Aldax
Mr. Arnold Settlemyer
Mr. Clance Burr
(Guest and Speaker List Attached)

Chairman Hickey called the meeting to order. Mr. Jacobsen then took the floor to thank the Committee members and Chairman for holding this meeting. He also introduced Assemblyman Roy Young and Assemblyman Keith Ashworth, Speaker of the House.

Mr. Hickey then introduced the Committee members. He announced that due to the shortage of time, he would have to limit the amount of time spent on the three subjects for discussion. The subjects were Dairy Commission, Green Belt, and Illegal Aliens.

Dairy producers gave their opinions on the Dairy Commission and its possible abolishment. Mr. Herb Witt explained that he felt there to be a definite need for the Dairy Commission, although there are a few changes needed. He went on to explain a few of the services the Commission provides. Mr. Jack White explained some of the problems the producers had before the Commission was established. He said he would rather see some kind of compromise than to have the Commission completely abolished. A general discussion was held on Federal Marketing Orders and its relationship with the problems now being faced.

Mr. Jeffrey said that in So. Nevada he felt there were more problems in the Commission than in the dairies themselves. He gave a brief explanation of his reasons for this. He mentioned that the reason the Dairy Commission had been brought to the attention of the public was due to high prices.

Mr. Jack White explained that selling milk for cheaper prices can be done by larger chain stores such as Safeway, but if the Consumer's League doesn't care how many small Nevada dairymen they force out of business, then maybe they can get milk for 1 or 2 cents.

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less per quart. The quality would no longer be as good as it has been in the past.

The Green Belt was the next subject for discussion. The Chairman, Mr. Hickey, explained the problem concerning a green belt was the determination of what is agricultural land and what is not. Assessment of the land is also a problem.

Mr. Dwayne Mack said he was more concerned with saving value of property. He said there is a vast difference between areas in the State. The other more open areas are not as affected because they are not in as much demand to be used as residential instead of ranch land.

Another very important issue according to Louis Bergiven is inheritance tax in relation to ranch land. The recapture of property tax also presents a problem according to Mr. Bergiven.

Mr. Ashworth, Speaker of the House, said we should be very careful about the seven year recapture provision in the law. He also felt the main concern to be the passage of a law about what should be agricultural or speculative land. Mr. Bergiven added that it is not absolutely necessary that a bill be drawn up this session.

Mr. Fred Dressler asked just how many ranchers could afford to pay for their ranches with the income they are making today and he also asked who will carry on ranching once the older ranchers are gone since the younger people are leaving the farms today.

Illegal Aliens was the next topic of concern. Mr. Price took the floor and made reference to A.B. 42 on illegal aliens and gave a brief explanation on his reasons for wanting passage of the bill. He said not only do illegal aliens take a large part of the labor market, especially in So. Nevada, but they also draw off social services. He said it would be very hard to write up a law to prevent the illegal aliens from working in the metropolitan areas without hurting agriculture. He said that there might be a possibility of prior notification to employers that illegal aliens were going to be taken off the jobs. He felt this might not place the employer in such a bind for additional workers needed immediately.

Mr. Wally Peterson, County Extension Agent, asked that the agricultural communities be left alone. Illegal aliens come under federal jurisdiction instead of State.

Mr. Andy Aldax said there had been some kind of contract program for illegal aliens to work. He asked if something could be arranged under this line.

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Mr. Price said there still is such a program in existence and Mr. Howard added that even though the program is still in existence, quotas are not being filled. He said someone has got to do the work that puts the food on the tables.

Mr. Fred Dressler then took the floor to say that he completely agrees. Worker are needed quite badly. Children can not do the work due to present laws, so someone has got to be trained. Mr. Arnold Settlemyer said he agreed with Mr. Dressler and gave further testimony along this line.

Mr. Getto said with no child labor and if this law is passed, then there will be fewer workers which will bring in automation. Once automation has taken over, then, at a later date, there will be less an availability of these type jobs.

Mr. Ashworth asked that we cope with illegal aliens rather than try to make the aliens legal. He said that at least this subject has been brought to the attention of the people. Mr. Price added that we know this is a real and definite problem - first recognize the problem, then do something about it. Mr. Ashworth said he doesn't feel the problem will be solved this session since it concerns all the states. He asked only that people come to the legislature and express their feelings to their representatives.

Assemblyman Roy Young said he was concerned with the special tax on livestock proposal. He read the bill and all changes the bill would make. He said most of the taxes were increased and AB184 he didn't feel these increases could be afforded at this time.

Mr. Clance Burr mentioned that he felt grazing land fees should be audited.

Mr. Hickey read all other bills concerning agriculture that had been proposed this session and there was a general discussion of the proposals.

Mr. Jacobsen introduced members of the audience and thanked the Committee for holding the hearing.

Mr. Hickey adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

La Donna Moore

La Donna Moore
Assembly Attache

/lm
Attachment

Guests and Speakers

Check here if speaking

Please Print

<u>Name</u>	<u>Business</u>
Walter Mack	Rancher
Louis Bergeron	RANCHER
Fred Dressler	Rancher
Dwaine Setdemeyer	"
WALLACE PETERSON	COUNTY AGENT
Clarence Burr	Rancher
John Conkling	DAIRYMAN
John Wenz	ELECTRICIAN

Topic or particular interest
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