

ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
58th NEVADA ASSEMBLY SESSION

MINUTES

January 23, 1975

Mr. Robert R. Barengo, Chairman, called to order the first meeting of the Assembly Judiciary Committee at the hour of 10:10 a.m. on Thursday, January 23, 1975.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Messrs. BARENGO, BANNER, HEANEY, HICKEY, POLISH, SENA, LOWMAN, Mrs. HAYES and Mrs. WAGNER.

MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE.

Mr. Barengo stated that the purpose of this first meeting was to establish and adopt a set of Committee Rules. A revised copy of the 1973 Committee Rules was introduced to the Committee. Mr. Hickey questioned the revision of Rule 11 of the proposed rules, and Mr. Barengo explained that often there are questions after hearing testimony from a witness, and the Committee may also wish further discussion. With the revision of Rule 11, a vote would be put off until the next day when the witness is not present, thus enabling the Committee to have extra time for discussion. Mr. Lowman stated that he thought this was a good idea. Mr. Lowman then moved that the Committee approve and adopt the 1973 Committee Rules as revised. Mrs. Hayes seconded that motion.

There were two guests present at this Committee Meeting. They were Ann Ehrenburg and Dennis Baughman, both representing the Las Vegas Review Journal.

Mrs. Wagner questioned the taping of the Committee Meeting, and Mr. Barengo explained that this was only for the use of the Committee and for secretarial purposes in preparing the minutes of the Committee meetings.

Mr. Barengo then introduced Mrs. Karen W. Hayes, Vice Chairman of the Assembly Judiciary Committee, and the secretary for the Committee, Flora Miller.

Mr. Barengo mentioned that all members of the Assembly Judiciary Committee were new with the exception of Mr. Hickey, Mr. Lowman and himself.

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Mr. Barengo stated that Mr. Hickey had done some checking into the number of bills which passed through the Committee last session, and he stated that there would be a lot of work for the Committee to do this session. Mr. Barengo also asked members of the Committee to "keep their eyes open" while bills are being introduced for any which would be referred to the Judiciary Committee. Then, a Committee member could ask for a one-minute recess, which would enable members of the Committee to briefly discuss the particular bill. Mrs. Wagner then asked how a freshman Assemblyman would identify a bill which would be referred to the Judiciary Committee. Mr. Barengo then advised that the Committee would review any bills dealing with the court system, anything to do with justice, or any related matters.

Mr. Barengo advised that he met with Senator Melvin Close, Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and that a hearing will be had on ERA on Monday, February 3, 1975 at 3:00 p.m. in conference room 131 on the Senate side of the building. It will be a joint hearing. If it is necessary to hear late testimony, the hearing will be recessed for the dinner hour, and then continued into the evening. A hearing on ERA will also be held in Las Vegas on February 8, 1975 at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Barengo stated that the Judiciary Committee has eleven bills referred to it so far, and seven of them are regarding the court package. Mr. Barengo explained that in the 1970 general election, a proposition was put to the voters which dealt with matters from restructuring the justice courts to the tenure system for judges. This proposition was defeated, and it has now come back in the form of resolutions and constitutional amendments. It was suggested by Mr. Barengo and Mr. Lowman that Judge Roy Torvinen and Senator Carl Dodge testify on some of these matters. Mr. Lowman stated that he thought the proposition was defeated at the polls because it was a "package" proposition. He said that each of the pieces of legislation inherited each others' enemies, so that no one knew which pieces were or were not acceptable. The justices of the peace, municipal courts and the Nevada Judges Association were the main opposition because from that time forward it would have been mandatory for all persons who ran for those offices to have been attorneys. This, it was felt, was so opposed because it challenged the already-elected officials' jobs.

Mr. Barengo plans to have sub-committees formed this session. Mr. Barengo stated he believes that Mr. Hickey should be the

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chairman of a sub-committee dealing with the death penalty. He said that formation of a sub-committee dealing with rape legislation will be considered.

Mr. Lowman moved that the Committee introduce a bill to prohibit injections of silicone or silicone-like substances into the body. Edward Kopf, M. D., a leading plastic surgeon from the southern part of the State, brought to Mr. Lowman's attention certain physical reactions to these type injections. Dr. Kopf showed Mr. Lowman slides of a woman whose breasts rotted away and a woman with lumps on the abdomen, all as a result of these injections. Mr. Lowman stated that there was no problem with implants, but the problem arose from the injections with these substances. Mr. Lowman also stated that Dr. Kopf is concerned with some major supplier of these substances coming into Nevada to distribute them for sale, as there is a lack of either state or federal prohibition for such distribution and sale. Mr. Heaney questioned whether this type of legislation has been passed in other states. Mr. Lowman replied that he was not aware of any such legislation being passed in any other states.

(During discussion of the possible introduction of this bill by the Judiciary Committee, Mrs. Wagner questioned whether introduction of a bill by a Committee implied that every member of the Committee sponsored that particular bill. Mr. Barengo advised that pursuant to Rule 6 regarding committee introduction, it is not implied that each member of the Committee will sponsor a bill.) Mr. Barengo advised that injecting anything into the body is considered the practice of medicine. It was stated that the Committee would want Dr. John Iliescu, a Reno area plastic surgeon, and others to testify. Mr. Lowman said that Dr. Kopf would probably be able to come to testify, and he said he would like the Committee to view the slides. A vote was taken, and a majority of the Committee members voted to introduce this bill as a Committee introduction. Mr. Banner and Mr. Barengo abstained.

It was moved and seconded that this meeting be adjourned, and this was done at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Flora Miller*

Flora Miller  
Secretary to Assembly  
Judiciary Committee