

MINUTES

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE - NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE - 58th SESSION

February 13, 1975

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Mello at 8:00 A.M. in the Ways and Means Committee Room.

PRESENT: Chairman Mello, Mr. Bremner, Mrs. Brookman, Mr. Dreyer, Mr. Glover, Mr. Howard, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Weise and Mr. Wittenberg.

ALSO PRESENT: Bill Bible, John Dolan, Mr. Goff, Mr. Jack Lemen, Mr. James Lien, Mr. Sheehan, Mr. John Darre, Mr. Slattery, Mr. Sam Paternostro, Mr. Paley, Mr. Joseph Anderson, Ms. Rae Clemison

Mr. Goff, Public Defender, stated that he has two full-time deputies and they handle all of the cases. He stated that he felt they were doing an adequate job, but stated that he has some apprehension about the future because of the economic situation. He stated that his office has no discretion in caseloads and stated that they must handle any case that is given to them.

He questioned the policy against private practice and felt that this office should be given the same consideration as the Attorney General's office as far as this is concerned. He stated that he had no meaningful statistics for the committee as they have not had the staff to keep them. He also stated that when they are faced with murder cases in the small counties, they are not equipped to handle them.

He stated that when this budget was prepared, they were told they would not be eligible for LEA funds and would have to look toward General Funds. There is \$50,000 LEA funds built into the budget without an application, but that the funds would be used elsewhere and would not be available for the next fiscal year. He also mentioned that he had asked for another deputy to absorb the work out of the prison and a research assistant to help handle the caseload.

He stated that most of the Out of State travel was used for training deputies and out of state seminars. He explained the In State travel and stated that he has asked his deputies to absorb transportation costs out of their own salaries as he does. He mentioned that they do not take any mileage for driving in Carson City.

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He mentioned that the Office Furniture and Equipment request was cut by the Governor and they are in need of a copy machine.

Mr. Howard asked the procedure for paying contracted attorneys and Mr. Goff explained that they are paid on a flat retainer basis. He stated that one attorney who handles also misdemeanors receives \$16,000 and the other attorney who handles only felonies receives \$14,533.

Mr. Jack Lemen explained the Education Communications Commission. He explained that they provide educational broadcasting, production and distribution. Primarily they are trying to proceed with a plan for state-wide educational television. Mr. Lemen then explained the satellite program. The One-Shot appropriation would be to construct a network and Mr. Bible explained that this they agreed with this provided the local School Districts would then provide the on-going costs. The School Districts indicated that they would not be able to fund these costs.

Mr. Robinson felt that there were duplications of statewide systems and felt that they could double up and Mr. Lemen stated that in a lot of ways they have.

Mr. Sheehan explained the Nevada Tax Commission. He stated that they have requested additional personnel to cure the present defects and handle the present needs. The Governor recommended one position. Priority #2 positions are for future growth. The Governor recommended no new position. And in Priority #3 was a request for people on the tax study committee and this was received more favorably than Priorities 1 and 2 by the Governor.

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He stated that they wanted to go to the decal system rather than the ink stamp system in marking cigarettes. He felt this was more secure.

He explained that the Dues and Registration fees were for membership in many taxing associations for professional reasons. Often these associations provide services and cut-rates on books, etc.

Mr. Sheehan felt that he should be allowed to have a private practice. At present, he cannot have any private practice whatsoever and stated that a bill was being drafted to state that he could have a private practice provided it is done after working hours with the Tax Commission. He stated he could not have a very extensive private practice because of his hours with the Tax Commission.

Mr. Dreyer asked if the cigarette companies went along with the decal system. Mr. Sheehan stated that the larger wholesalers are interested, but he felt the smaller ones would probably not.

He also explained the auditors who work in California. There is a one man office in San Francisco and a two man office in Los Angeles. He stated these offices audit California firms who do business in Nevada and this eliminates travel expenses. He stated that this office does not need more auditors, but if there were more auditors they would bring into Nevada another \$45,000.

Mr. Sheehan then explained the Multi State Tax Compact.

He also mentioned that they needed a training office to administer tests and certify that assessor's are capable and competent. This office would coordinate training services and teach assessor's how to appraise property.

Mr. Slattery then explained the Regional Plumbing Board and stated that they are in need of an inspector. Mr. John Darre stated that various cities and counties do not have a plumbing code. He felt that a uniform state code is needed and also inspectors to prevent illnesses from bad plumbing. This would also prevent plumbing from having to be redone at the expense to the resident because it was done wrong in the first place. He felt that this would give the resident or contractor a place to call if they found bad workmanship. Chairman Mello felt that it was a good program, but he did not see how one man could handle the job with the little money that was provided.

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John Driscoll, Master plumber, stated that he has never seen a plumbing inspector on the jobs he has worked. He stated that the State Contractor's Board wouldn't know if the job was done right or not. Mr. Conner, stated that this would give the people a place to go for protection, but if there are no funds, the people would just be disappointed. Mr. Paley explained that a journeyman does what the employer tells him to do and felt that someone was making money on it. He felt that it should be tried for two years and if it has not proved to be satisfactory, then it should be cut from the budget. Mr. Sam Paternostro stated that they first needed a uniform plumbing code. Chairman Mello stated that they need to find out what legislation would be necessary and that there was no chance for the inspector until the plumbing code was in effect.

Joe Anderson, librarian, explained the Library Budget. He stated the first priority was for new staff members but they agreed with the rest of the budget as recommended by the Governor. He stated that they were not asking for any new programs, just to provide better quality to the old ones.

He explained that the Documents Catalogue project would provide reorganization of state bibliographies of Nevada. He explained that the Instructional Supplies amount is higher because they are trying to meet the demands and needs of the functions of state government and to the people. He explained Project 75-49, \$96,000 for remodeling and stated that this was to provide study and work space needed. Mr. Robinson then asked for a breakdown of how the amounts would be used for the bookmobiles. Mr. Hansberger explained that this would provide three bookmobiles at \$34,000 each and \$30,000 would be for books. He also explained the need for a reinforcement of children's books. Chairman Mello felt that deisel engines would require less gas and maintenance. Because of the lack of time this budget will be continued.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 A.M.