

Assembly

MINUTES

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

February 4, 1975

The 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: John Dolan, Jean Ross and Joel Pinkerton - Budget Office; Bill Swackhamer, Secretary of State; Fred Gale - Department of Archives; Vicki Nash - Director, Nevada Bicentennial Commission; Robert Rose, Lieutenant Governor; Bill Hancock - Public Works Board; Mr. Etchemendy - Carson City, City Manager; Dan Miles - Budget Office.

Motion to approve the minutes of the meetings of January 29 and 30, 1975 was made by Mr. Dreyer and Seconded by Mrs. Brookman. Motion passed.

Bill Swackhamer, Secretary of State, stated that he agreed with the Governor's proposed budget. He stated that the Compilation of Election Returns was a very expensive process. 750 are printed each primary and general election, but felt that it could possibly be cut down to 250. Mr. Swackhamer stated that the Advertising would help promote a good deal of new business. He explained the Program Statement and felt that the annual lists, (list of Officers and Resident Agents of Corporations) if put on the computer, would save a great deal of time. He stated that people are calling all the time and that for each call the girls have to go to the card index file which takes four minutes. The computer would reduce this time to 19 seconds which would enable more calls to come through the Office of Secretary of State. A study was conducted which proved that this would be a more efficient process.

He explained the One Shot appropriation of \$63,000 for data processing would be used for this purpose.

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Mr. Swackhamer explained that \$89,000 is estimated for the presidential election to be paid by the State. At present, paper ballots are being provided for all elections to the twelve smaller counties. He felt that this should either be done for all counties or none at all. Chairman Mello requested a list showing how much money is saved by the counties when the paper ballots are provided and Mr. Swackhamer stated he would see that the Committee receives this list.

The capital Improvement appropriation would provide carpeting in the public offices and the \$10,000 appropriation would be for Nevada to host the National Association of Secretary of State Conference to be held in Las Vegas.

Mr. Fred Gale then explained the budget for the Department of Archives. He stated that if the Department is to provide preservation of historical records, sufficient funds are needed. The office was to be moved into the Heroes Memorial Building, but they will now have to be moved into a printing office when that office moves. Presently, this office occupies the first floor and basement of the Capitol Annex. This office is now full and they have not been able to accept any records from any agency because there is no room. The Archive Office is now at a standstill.

Chairman Mello asked Mr. Pinkerton of the Budget Office why they did not agree with this budget. Mr. Pinkerton replied that they would provide travel expenses for Mr. Gale to visit the counties and inspect materials before they would be sent to the Archive room. Mr. Gale stated that now the counties are ready to send 1500 cubic feet of Archive records. Mr. Weise commented that once Mr. Gale decides what is to be brought to the office he would have no place to put them when they get to the office.

Mr. Gale then explained the Up-Grade Principal Clerk Typist salary increase request and stated that it would be up to personnel to decide what grade this position would then be. Chairman Mello stated that he felt this increase was quite large. John Dolan explained that this did not include the 15% salary adjustment proposed for classified employees. Mr. Gale stated he felt she was well worth it.

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Vicki Nash, Director of the Nevada Bicentennial Commission, explained the proposals. She stated that the federal grant was reduced from \$45,000 to \$25,000 and that there is no guarantee that this funds will be available during 1975-77. She also stated that there are 30 local Bicentennial committees and 197 projects. She then explained that Nevada's medallion would be the chief source of revenue to match the \$240,000 federal project grant. These medallions would be produced on the old Carson City press in view of the public at the State Museum and that the metal would be donated by the Nevada Mining Association. On completion of this project Nevada American Revolution Bicentennial Commission will finance the automation of the press and leave it as a permanent revenue source for the Museum.

She stated that the operation of this Commission is done with Federal money and the projects are supported by the State. She also stated that she has prepared a list showing what other states have appropriated for their Bicentennials. Mrs. Nash also stated that the salaries are \$25 per day, per committee member for each meeting they attend.

Mr. Robinson stated that for the past two years the Commission has operated on \$90,000 and asked why they needed \$150,000 for the next two years. Mrs. Nash stated that they need to add two persons to their staff. Mr. Robinson requested that Mrs. Nash provide a list of committee and the projects, which have been locally funded.

There was much confusion on this Commission and Chairman Mello appointed a sub-committee consisting of Mr. Glover, Mr. Weise and Mr. Howard.

Lt. Governor, Bob Rose, stated that he agreed with the Governor's figures. He stated that the office of Lt. Governor is a part-time office, but the people expect to be able to contact him at all times. He stated that he has one secretary which is an unclassified position located in Las Vegas and he requests that her salary be brought up another \$50 per month. He stated that she is the only staff person and since she must be more of an administrative assistant, he felt she should be paid accordingly. Chairman Mello asked why the Governor is paying his secretaries \$9,278 and is requesting their salary to increase to \$11,090 and the Lt. Governor's secretary is paid so low. Mr. Pinkerton stated they could have proposed this, but didn't and could not answer the question.

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Mr. Rose stated that the Las Vegas office has no furniture and would like state furniture be furnished. He also stated that the secretary in Carson City is only a part-time person and works only half a day.

Mr. Bill Hancock explained the five functions of the State Public Works Board and stated that they are recommending a new position of Assistant Chief Building Inspector. He also stated that the Out-of-State travel expenses could be increased as training seminars are held out of state, but he stated these funds could be transferred. Mr. Hancock stated that they were budgeted for six board meetings and have already had twelve. The Host expenses of \$50 would be for guests who are taken out to lunch.

Mr. Dreyer stated that the last budget showed no change in staff and this budget shows an addition of three new people. Chairman Mello stated that this would be checked.

Mr. Etchemendy, City Manager for Carson City was then introduced. He stated that NRS 361 requires that each county maintain a separate tax list for real estate property owned by the State of Nevada. When the value of the State-owned property exceeds 17% of the total value of the county, that portion of the State value in excess of 17% may be taxed by the county at the same rate other property is taxed. Mr. Robinson asked if Carson City is at the \$5 constitutional maximum on the tax rate now. Mr. Etchemendy replied that they are at \$4.95 within the city limits and \$3.80 for rural areas. They are nearly at this limit, but not yet. Mr. Robinson stated that if the philosophy is correct that this is creating a burden on the community, it would seem that the tax rate would be at the maximum before this would be requested. Mr. Robinson also questioned why Carson City should get special consideration by virtue of having a lot of state buildings. He felt that this philosophy should hold for all counties. He stated that the other counties should deserve a like consideration for the amount of state buildings in their area.

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Mr. Etchemendy stated that any county that had the same impact would qualify, however, Carson City is the only county that does qualify and collects the 17%. Mr. Weise stated that many of the employees in these state buildings commute from other counties and do not pay taxes in Carson City which places a big burden on Carson City.

Chairman Mello then made four Committee introductions:

- BDR S-833 Makes General Fund supplemental appropriation for support of Nevada State Council on the Arts.
- BDR S-854 Makes supplemental appropriation from General Fund to the Welfare Division.
- BDR S-774 Make appropriation to stale claims fund account.
- BDR S-773 Make appropriation to Emergency Fund account.

Motion was made by Mr. Bremner and Seconded by Mr. Wittenburg. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 A.M.