

## MINUTES

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

February 5, 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, Bill Bible, Sally Davis - Employee/Management Board; Jesse D. Scott, Marie Montag - Equal Rights Commission; Benson Gibson, Linda Brown - Indian Affairs Commission; Mr. Ethridge, Mr. Hatfield - Veteran's Administration.

Sally Davis gave an analysis of the budgetary requests and a review of the functions of the Employee/Management Board. She stated that at the present time there are 23 formal complaints and appeals pending before the Board. Mr. Robinson asked, in regards to the In-State travel, if three meetings per month were held by this three man board. Ms. Davis stated yes they are. They never know where the hearings will be heard or where the board members will be located. Presently, there are two board members in Las Vegas and one in Reno.

Bill Bible then explained the Bond Interest Redemption. This account provides for principal or interest on bonds outstanding. Chairman Mello stated there was a One-Shot in the amount of \$8,000. Mr. Bible explained that the purpose of this is to pay for the cost associated with the sale of bonds.

Mr. Jesse D. Scott then explained the Equal Rights Commission and the problems they are having. Chairman Mello asked why they were requesting nine new positions and the Governor is recommending only two. Mr. Scott stated they are requesting four investigators because the complaint intake has doubled and the Governor is recommending only one. He also stated that they requested four clerical positions and the Governor recommended only one. Chairman Mello also questioned the Salaries Overtime. Mr. Scott explained that there are times when an individual cannot be reached during regular office hours and the investigators must work later. Mr. Robinson asked that if Legislation is being submitted to resolve discrimination due to sex, age, physical and visual handicaps, if this is approved, what affect it would have on the case load. Mr. Scott replied that it would probably be a 200-300 complaint increase.

Over

Mr. Scott stated that he felt the Legal and Court Expenses were too low because transcripts are very expensive and witnesses have to be paid for testifying. The amount proposed includes the salary for the part-time Deputy Attorney General. Mr. Bible stated that the Deputy Attorney General's salary would come out of this \$15,000 leaving almost \$8,000 for the cost of the transcripts. Chairman Mello stated that the work program now is \$4,000 and this would be almost doubled which should be more than adequate. Mr. Scott also stated that the record only shows their past experience. People are now more sophisticated and educated about their rights and hearings take much longer. Mr. Robinson asked if the complainants are represented by legal counsel or if they used the services of Legal Aid. Mr. Scott replied that they either come on their own or with an attorney, but very few use Legal Aid and in order to be eligible for this service, a person must be at the poverty level. Mr. Scott also stated that it is their hope that the Legislature will provide them with subpoena power. This subpoena power would be used to subpoena records that are important and helpful to the case. Mr. Howard asked how many court hearings there were in the last biennium. Mr. Scott replied that there were six last year and not more than ten in the last biennium. It was difficult to get the Commission together. They are requesting a Hearings Officer, and if this position is approved it would prevent a problem of this type.

Chairman Mello questioned the rent proposal. Marie Montag explained that their office space has increased and the rent is also going to be increased. Alice Smith, who resides in Sparks, Nevada, stated that it is her hope that the Legislature take into consideration that everything has gone up. Her attitude is that this Commission must be kept going. There are many poor people and misinformed people and the Commission has to be spread

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very thin to listen and reach out to them. She stated that no matter who is hired, they want decent wages. Everything is tight and there aren't too many volunteers.

Benson Gibson, Indian Affairs Commission, stated that they are in the process of attempting to set up training for the Indian Tribes and set up tribal law codes. He stated that it is very complex dealing with Indian Law and setting up these tribal codes. He is presently meeting with the 26 reservations informing them, and interpreting in their language, what this is all about. He stated their staff consists of three people and they are kept very busy. They are requesting an Indian Affairs Expert. This person would have to be knowledgeable in tribal codes and Indian law, and able to communicate with the three tribes throughout the state of Nevada. Mr. Gibson stated that this person must also be an expert in research and look into critical water situations that involve most of the tribes and work with Indian Affairs.

Mr. Gibson stated that he needs to meet with the reservations all during the week and the office in Carson City has to be kept operational. This means a real cut-down in meeting the needs of the people as he meets with people in both the Eastern and Western parts of the state.

Linda Brown, coordinator, stated that one form in particular that she has to use is very complicated and when she asked for a training session on how to complete this form, she was told that there was no such training and had to learn it by herself. She stated that her job consists of office work, programs, paperwork, letterwriting and bookkeeping. She is also requested to meet with the people in the Carson area when Mr. Gibson is in another. She is also very busy and feels their office is in need of another secretary.

Mrs. Brookman then explained in more detail about the locations of the reservations and passed a map to the Committee members. She stated that there are two Indian hospitals and one Indian school.

Over

Mr. Ethridge explained the Veteran's Affairs. He stated the Veteran's Division is a small office consisting of eight people, four located in Las Vegas and four in Reno. He stated that they assist veterans with any problems they might have in obtaining benefits. Mr. Ethridge stated that there is no increase in any program except a few which show increases due to inflationary pressures. The only other increase in funds is the contractual area of \$15,000 for the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He stated they perform some services which are paralleled to those performed by the Commission of Veteran's Affairs. Mr. Dreyer asked about the other associations and Mr. Ethridge replied that no other veteran organization has approached him for funds, they have only asked for help in developing statistical data which was provided. He also stated that the workload had decreased because of remoteness of the current location, the Veteran's Administration furnishes some service which takes some of the workload off Las Vegas, and because of the turnover of male employees. He stated that the \$15,000 would be used for personnel and travel. There is no need for a secretary and this work is being done by volunteers. Mr. Hatfield then gave a History of the Veteran's of Foreign Wars. He stated they provide services to all veteran's, mainly widows and children.

Chairman Mello then asked for approval of the Committee's Introduction of BDR S-529 "Relieves State Board of Chinese Medicine from obligation of repaying loan from contingency fund authorized by interim finance committee." Mr. Robinson stated he has no desire to cancel out this debt. He stated that all other boards are self-sufficient and this should be carried until they have the money to repay the bill. Chairman Mello felt that this problem could be resolved by introducing the bill, calling in Mr. Edwards, and hearing his testimony. Mr. Dreyer felt that further discussion would be helpful and he did not feel the debt should be cancelled. Motion was made by Mr. Dreyer to introduce this bill, Seconded by Mrs. Brookman. Motion approved.

Also, a Motion was made by Mr. Robinson, seconded by Mrs. Brookman, and passed to introduce a Supplemental "Make General Fund supplemental appropriation to support the office of Extradition Clerk."

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 A.M.