

## Assembly

## MINUTES

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

March 13, 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, General Edsall, Robert Gregory, John Towley, Dr. Elliott, Dr. Shepperman and Bill Hancock.

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Motion was made by Mrs. Brookman to approve the minutes of March 6 and 7, 1975. Seconded by Mr. Dreyer. Motion passed. 269

General Edsall explained the Department of Military budget. Chairman Mello stated that a Supplemental on page A-29 for \$16,000 would provide for the increase in utility costs, AB 246. General Edsall stated that \$9,000 in Federal Funds would be received also for this purpose.

General Edsall stated that the Department of Military is governed by State and Federal statute. They have a dual mission of providing a responsive and effective force for state emergencies and to be prepared to act as a Federal military force when a national crisis arises. Their units have the responsibility for recruiting, equipping, and training personnel to carry out army and air guard missions in Nevada, in the nation, and if need be, anywhere in the world. Also they are responsible for maintenance and safekeeping of all federal and state property issued to the guard and the administration of a statewide program. Their readiness is constantly being improved through new equipment, new or upgraded facilities and increased training. This readiness is possible only with continued state and Federal support. They have over 2000 guardsmen trained and ready to provide assistance to both military and civilian operations. During 1974 the state received \$9.8 million for Federal funding of personnel, training, facilities, equipment, maintenance, administration clothing, supplies, transportation and have approximately 400 Federal technicians. Augmenting these manpower and funding resources is \$91 million in Federally purchased and maintained equipment, all of which is available for use in declared state or local emergencies. They operate one of the largest air and one of the largest ground transportation fleets in the state and have nearly \$13 million in capital building assets. During the past two years, more than \$1/2 million was spent in constructing new facilities and improving existing ones. Equally important is the recruitment and retention of national guardsmen. To assure that required manning levels are maintained, qualified and capable people must be recruited into the guard. The retention rate has improved which they feel is due to upgrading the training and incentive programs. Two years ago, two major benefit bills were passed: providing a mini-GI bill which pays for 50 percent of the consolidated fees for university or community college enrollement and providing funding for a previously passed uniform allowance. More than 500 guardsmen have taken advantage of the educational assistance program since it went into effect in July 1973. This year they are asking for an additional benefit proposal. They are submitting a bill to provide a free vehicle license plate to each active enlisted guardsman. The cost of the tag and privilege tax would be reimbursed upon application. Increased state support is also being asked for administrative support of the Nevada Military Department. Two new clerical positions are requested to properly support the state administration and personnel functions. Also, two additional custodial positions are requested to provide needed janitorial maintenance for the new Headquarters Building and for combined support Maintenance Shop and the U.S. Property and Fiscal Office. Cost of the custodial help for the second position is Federally reimbursable on a 75-25 Federal-State basis. Funds are being requested for the increase in utilities and building maintenance and to handle the new facility in Carson City and a planned Avionics Building at Reno. They are requesting additional funds for supplies and communications due to the increase in cost. Increase in insurance premiums is based on recent changes in the appraised value of their facilities.

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General Edsall stated that the food request has decreased as the OCS program will secure almost all Federal funding.

They also receive revenue from the Civil Defense Department of \$15,000 as they will share the same building. This is from Other Governmental Services on page 404.

They are about 200 guardsmen short mostly in the Southern part of the state. They are not sure of the problem, but he felt that part of it is due to the strength of the economy in this area.

The average length of service for a guardsman is six years. Their retention rate is improving and is about 30%.

AB 181 "Authorizes payment of privilege tax and registration fees for national guardsmen" will be amended to provide this only for enlisted men and not the Officers. The primary purpose of this is to hopefully retain men and assist in recruiting.

Robert Gregory explained the Civil Defense and Disaster Agency. Their basic responsibility is to coordinate all the emergency functions in the state.

The Assistance System provides a single office through which assistance is made available to the political subdivisions within the State.

The Defense Civil Preparedness Agency contributes Federal funds to State government, for the support of the national Civil Preparedness programs. The Matching funds (50-50) provide Personnel and administrative costs, Emergency Operating Centers, and Local Government support for civil defense and emergency planning. The Federally funded annual contracts include Staff and support costs for statewide maintenance and calibration of radiological monitoring instruments, Staff and support costs for training courses, State Staff professionals and clerical support for local level nuclear attack preparedness planning and Engineering staff. The Surplus Property total is \$750,000 and Excess Property is \$2 million for three years.

The Dollar per capita State Civil Defense Agency's funds is .1025.

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Mr. Gregory explained their programs (page 4 of Handout). **Education in Schools - Due solely to the efforts of the Civil Defense University** Extension personnel on the staff, school emergency action plans have been prepared and introduced into 16 school districts, Hazardous Materials Training - twelve classes were held which were designed to familiarize emergency services personnel with the characteristics of hazardous materials, On-Site Assistance to Counties - The Nevada Civil Defense Agency, in conjunction with the Defense Civil Preparedness Agency has been conducting an extensive analysis of emergency preparedness within Nevada's counties, Shelter Program - Community Shelter Programs were distributed to every person in the State, Exercises - At least one Emergency Operation Simulation Exercise is programmed for each county and/or city each year, Excess and Surplus Property - All types of surplus and excess government property have been acquired for the political subdivisions, and Planning - Supervised and/or wrote the Emergency Operations Plans and Communications plans for all seventeen counties.

The Civil Defense and Disaster Agency has a graduate electrical engineer on its staff. His duty is that of communications officer and he provides planning and technical assistance to local governments and State agencies.

Chairman Mello then read BDR 1072, "Directs legislative commission to review compensation plans of classified and unclassified state employees." Mr. Dreyer recommended a committee introduction into Legislative functions. Mrs. Brookman seconded. Motion passed.

Mr. Dreyer then gave the sub-committee report on the New Careers Plan on page A-22. Mr. Frank Matthews told the sub-committee that a new budget has been prepared. Mr. Dreyer stated that the committee unanimously felt that the budget should be approved, but that the Interim Finance Committee will be receiving monthly reports regarding the progress of the program. This will be effective October 1. Mr. Bible stated that the cash flow

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for stipends will be done on a quarterly basis if need be. Mr. Dreyer also stated that if the Interim Finance Committee felt that the program was not worthwhile they should be able to discontinue the program. Mr. Robinson felt that the Interim Finance Committee should not be able to do this. Mr. Wittenberg stated that he felt if this is done, the programs in effect should be able to run out and just not add any new ones. Chairman Mello questioned whether this Committee even had the authority to cut off the program. Mr. Bible stated that once the money is appropriated, the Interim Finance Committee would not have the legal authority to discontinue the program, but any recommendation that is made would be considered. Mr. Dreyer stated that the sub-committee is only lukewarm on this program. Chairman Mello stated that the monthly reports would give the Committee an idea of the program two years from now. Mr. Howard stated that these monthly reports would give the Committee an eyeball view of the activities and they could see how well it is working. John Dolan stated that the Chairman of the Committee has the power to call the people in on this program if they feel it is not working. Mr. Dreyer stated that a contract would be drawn up for each employer using this program. The employer would have to state the length of employment, the stipend and the amount of wages to be paid which should help eliminate any problem that might arise regarding an employer who might hire and fire employees in order to have low cost labor. Chairman Mello stated that the amendment might read "Office of Economic Development will report monthly to the Interim Finance Committee members." It was the feeling of the Ways and Means Committee to wait for the amendment to be drawn up before making a decision.

The Committee on Veterans Affairs page 97. Chairman Mello stated that the sub-committee reviewed the Contractual Services part of this budget and were fully satisfied. Mr. Robinson made a motion to approve the Committee on Veterans Affairs as recommended by the Governor. Seconded by Mrs. Brookman. Motion passed.

Equal Rights Commission page 99. Mr. Bible stated that two new positions are being recommended for the increase in the workload and to add a 1/2 Deputy Attorney General. Mr. Glover made a motion to approve the Equal Rights Commission as recommended by the Governor. Seconded by Mr. Wittenberg. Motion passed.

Mr. Bremner made a motion to approve the Western Interstate Nuclear Compact, page 641, as recommended by the Governor. **Seconded by Mr. Howard.** Motion passed.

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Chairman Mello read AB 66 "Provides for alternative choice of secretary of merit award board and increases allowable expenditures on individual awards and yearly plans." BDR23-269. This allows the \$200 maximum individual award be increased to \$500 and the \$2000 maximum to be expended per fiscal year to \$5000. Mr. Robinson recommended a "Do-Pass". Seconded by Mrs. Brookman. Motion passed. Mr. Robinson made a motion to approve the budget as recommended by the Governor. Mr. Bremner seconded. Motion passed.

Mr. Howard made a motion to approve the Military Budget on page 399 as recommended by the Governor. Mrs. Brookman Seconded. Motion passed.

Mr. Dreyer made a motion to approve the Civil Defense and Disaster Agency as recommended by the Governor (page 403). Mrs. Brookman seconded. Motion passed.

Mr. Howard made a motion to approve the RADEF Program as recommended by the Governor (Page 405). Seconded by Mr. Dreyer. Motion passed.

Mr. Robinson made a motion to approve the Hardware Program (page 407) as recommended by the Governor. Seconded by Mr. Dreyer. Motion passed.

Mr. Dreyer made a motion to approve the Surplus Property Civil Defense (page 408) as recommended by the Governor. Mr. Weise Seconded. Motion passed.

Mr. Wittenberg made a motion to approve the Civil Defense and Disaster Agency Emergency Planning Program as recommended by the Governor. Mrs. Brookman Seconded. Motion Passed.

Mrs. Brookman made a motion to approve the P & A Program as recommended by the Governor. Seconded by Mr. Weise. Motion passed.

Mr. John Townley then explained the Historical Society page 207. He stated that they have gathered up all the materials the Historical Society had and are storing them. The grants have provided for storage racks, publishing a quarterly and contract work with the Highway Department, the Museum and the Division of Parks.

He stated that in this budget they are asking for inflationary increase in operation and two half-time positions. This would increase the library position to a full-time position as they now handle 50,000 volumes. And also the custodial worker would be increased to a full-time position which would allow the Center to open on Sundays.

The Printing has doubled due to the increase in printing costs. They also provide textbooks and materials as teaching aids for teachers in Nevada History classes.

The Other Building Rent is for storage space at Stead.

Mr. Robinson requested a copy of their quarterly report which Mr. Bible stated he would supply.

Mr. Glover asked Mr. Townley what his feelings were on combining the historic society with the museum. Mr. Townley stated that he was not opposed to the consolidation of the cultural agencies, but felt that each individual agency should be protected. They have money and property that is willed to them by individuals and feel the need to protect these gifts. He does not feel the process should be hurried. Mr. Shepperman stated that he too felt there was a need for the protection of each agency as they each have different functions. It would be difficult to have one board who would provide all the functions. He stated that there was room for consolidation, but all agencies have to stimulate the people of Nevada.

Bill Hancock, State Public Works Board, was requesting approval to use a grant that they have received from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Senate Finance has approved this and they are now asking for approval by the Ways and Means Committee. Mr. Bremner made a motion to approve this. Mr. Weise Seconded. Motion Passed.

Mr. Hancock then explained a letter he had received from the Southwest Gas Corporation stating that they would not be supplying natural gas to the new building which is under construction in Las Vegas. They have now been told by the Gas Company that the gas will be supplied to the building, but they do not know about the other projects as yet.

Chairman Mello read AB 43 "Makes supplemental appropriation for payment of additional taxes due to Carson City under subsection 4 of NRS 361.055." BDR S 535. Mr. Glover made a motion to recommend a "Do-Pass". Mr. Weise Seconded. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM.