

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
JANUARY 29, 1975

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The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m.

Senator Floyd R. Lamb was in the chair.

PRESENT: Senator Floyd R. Lamb, Chairman
Senator James I. Gibson, Vice-Chairman
Senator Warren L. Monroe
Senator B. Mahlon Brown
Senator William J. Raggio
Senator Clifton Young

ABSENT: Senator Lee E. Walker

OTHERS: Norrine Barber, Attorney General's Office
James Thompson, Attorney General's Office
Robert List, Attorney General
Joel Pinkerton, Budget Office
Senator Hilbrecht
Cy Ryan, UPI
Howard Barrett, State Budget Director
Vernon Bennett, Public Employees Retirement
Perry Burnett, Legislative Counsel
Ron Sparks, Deputy Fiscal Advisor

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Attorney General, Robert List, opened the meeting by presenting his office's new positions. The new positions are listed on Page 16 of, The Executive Budget, Fiscal Years 1975-76 and 1976-77. Senator Raggio asked Mr. List how many Deputies are now in Las Vegas. Mr. List answered that five are now hired, and that his office is requesting three new hires.

Senator Gibson asked why the Department of Education is not funding the position of Deputy III. Mr. List answered the Department of Education felt that the appropriation should come out of the General fund.

Senator Raggio asked if \$10,804 is consistent for a Senior Legal Steno. Mr. List answered that a Steno in that category was in a supervisory position. Mr. Howard Barrett added that such a salary was also consistent with Washoe County.

Senator Gibson remarked that the Deputy covering the Colorado River Project should be knowledgeable about power contracts.

Senator Monroe asked if the Deputy III - Taxi Cab is justified. Mr. List answered that he is justified, as he is in court almost everyday.

Senator Raggio asked who is the Deputy in Gaming. Mr. List answered

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ATTORNEY GENERAL (Cont.)

that the Deputy was Sam Belford. Senator Raggio asked if there was a "lid" on Mr. Belford's compensation. Mr. List answered that there is none. Senator Raggio asked to be shown what Mr. Belford required for fees.

Senator Young asked if there was a Deputy for the University of Nevada. There is a full-time Deputy working for the Board of Regents, ~~in the North and South~~, answered Mr. List. They are compensated in part by the University, and in part by the General Fund. Mr. List assured the members of the Committee that communications with the Deputy at the University were very good, and that the Deputies' allegiance was to the Attorney General's office.

Senator Young asked if the five Deputies in Welfare prosecute for fraud. Mr. List responded that the D.A. prosecutes. He continued explaining the functions of the Deputies for Welfare as follows:

- One Deputy - Federal Regulations
- One Deputy - Reno Area
- One Deputy - Chief Deputy
- Two Deputies - Las Vegas Area

And Mr. List added that one position in Northern Nevada will be eliminated.

Senator Lamb, referring back to the University Deputies, stated that the lawyers hired will not give up their private practice. Senator Brown noted that \$27,000 is split between the two Deputies. Senator Lamb said that it didn't seem fair to the other State Deputies that they are required by the Legislature in the coming Fiscal Year to give up their private practice, and the two contracted lawyers covering the University are not. Senator Raggio interjected that lawyers could abuse this situation by doubling their income on a contractual basis with the State, and still maintaining their private practice. Senator Brown concurred with this remark. Mr. List agreed that consolidation in this area throughout the State would be beneficial.

Mr. List talked about the pay schedule for Deputies that he has worked out. There are four steps or grades that are in accord with complexity and ability. Senator Gibson wanted to know if the Attorney General's office had difficulty recruiting with the salary schedule available. Mr. List remarked that as of July 1st the legislative ruling concerning private practice while a State employee will cause difficulty in recruiting. Senator Gibson remarked that perhaps a change in Attorney Generals was also a reason for the difficulty. Mr. List remarked that when he took office he retained ten of the

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ATTORNEY GENERAL (Cont.)

former Deputies.

Senator Raggio asked who is the Administrative Assistant. Mr. List replied that the Assistant was Dick Calhoun. Mr. Calhoun is hired to handle the press and various other public inquiries. Mr. List justified the Assistant's salary increase by saying that this position carries a lot of authority.

Senator Gibson asked if the Legal Research hires also have private practice. Mr. List answered they do not.

Mr. List clarified the general concern among the Senators about the grade increases in salary. Mr. List said the percentage increase asked for is at the highest grade, and that that amount may not be what is actually paid. He also further justified the increases by saying that litigation in tort cases require good attorneys, and that this program should cause more feelings of long-range employment with the higher pay and included benefits of insurance and retirement. Mr. List said that he is trying to keep salaries equitable with the event of practice loss, and the increasing cost of living.

Senator Lamb made the closing remark on this section by requesting that a list of Deputies with private practices as well as their incomes be provided.

Special Fund

Mr. List said concerning the use of allocated funds for this appropriation that as of January 1st, 1975, only \$15,000 of the \$30,000 permitted was used. He is asking for \$2,500 increase each year for the Biennium.

Private Detective

Mr. List remarked that this section is self-sustaining through the fees.

Extradition Clerk

A supplemental appropriation of \$3,770 is made for this section in order to permit payment of the claim that is owed Clark County for 1972-73.

Robert List concluded by giving figures of recovered monies by his office. He stated that about \$100,000,000 in litigation will be coming within six months.

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STATE TREASURER

State Treasurer, Mike Mirabelli, began by stating that the work load in his office has increased greatly since the advent of short-term investments. For example: the transactions in 1973-74 amounted to 927,000,000. The short-term investments lasting on the average of twelve days.

In discussing his new positions, Mr. Mirabelli remarked that a new senior account clerk is requested to assist in maintaining the State Travel Revolving Fund. Mr. Mirabelli said that this was a very busy department.

Senator Brown asked about estimating the rate of prime interest. Mr. Mirabelli said that the percentage can't always be estimated, as it is fluctuating, and can change from 12% to 6 1/2%. He did say that an increase in income from \$2.6 million to \$7.1 million is predicted.

Senator Lamb remarked that the cost of insurance had greatly increased. Mr. Howard Barrett answered that surety bonds and theft insurance are included, but they are doing away with the surety bonds. Senator Lamb asked about group insurance. Mr. Barrett answered that the increase in this area is the same for all State budgets.

Senator Lamb asked about out-of-state travel. Mr. Mirabelli said that he attends two conventions in other states each year that allow him to make good investment connections. They are the Western States Treasurers Convention, and the National Treasurers Convention.

Senator Young ended the discussion by asking if the Treasurers office invests over the phone. Mr. Mirabelli answered that it does so in great volume.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL - LEGAL DIVISION

Mr. Perry Burnett, Legislative Counsel, presented an advisory statement to the Committee members concerning the position of the Legislature to regulate funds appropriated to the University of Nevada. Senator Lamb suggested that a copy of the statement be sent to Chancellor Humphrey, Board of Regents, University of Nevada Systems. Senator Lamb also asked Ron Sparks, Fiscal Advisor, to provide the committee with a line-item budget from the University, and include in his report all incoming federal, county, and city monies.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:32 o'clock in the morning.

APPROVED: Floyd R. Lamb
Floyd R. Lamb, Chairman

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: Shaba Woolley
Shaba Woolley, Secy.