

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
FEBRUARY 24, 1975

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The meeting was called to order at 12:22 p.m.

Senator Floyd R. Lamb was in the Chair.

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

OTHERS: George Miller, Welfare Division
Roger Trounday, Dept. of Human Resources
Cy Ryan, UPI
Howard Barrett, Budget Director
Ron Sparks, Fiscal Analyst

WELFARE ADMINISTRATION

Senator Lamb began by stating that the Committee would like to have a projection given on the problems created by the rise in unemployment.

Mr. George Miller said that only 28% of heads of households (women) receiving benefits are employed, and a seven percent increase of the current load would occur if 25% of this 28% became unemployed. Mr. Miller said that ten percent of this group are immune to the economic situation, however, if the Unemployed Father Bill should pass, then the percentage of unemployment would affect welfare distribution.

Mr. Miller said that the heads of households on the welfare rolls now are employed, and the increase of unemployment is normal, as there is always an upswing in January.

Mr. Miller said the number of women in this category is not that great, but if entire families became involved, then as many as 25% to 30% could be unemployed. (The category reference is to, "Aid to Dependent Children")

Mr. Howard Barrett said that under Title 20, the ADC program totals about \$4.6 million, but if the Unemployed Father Bill passes, there would be a \$1 million, to \$1.2 million increase, as well as an appropriation of approximately \$300,000 for staff.

Senator Lamb asked if unemployment would affect the distribution of food stamps. Mr. Miller said that he predicts an increase in food stamp participants. Mr. Miller said that there are 11,668 people on food stamps now. Mr. Barrett said that it is projected that the first year of the biennium there

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WELFARE ADMINISTRATION (Cont.)

will be 13,000 participants, and 12,000 for the second year. Mr. Barrett said that the Budget Office is hoping for a decrease. Senator Brown could not see how a decrease could be foreseen when the unemployment rate keeps steadily rising.

Senator Raggio asked what determined eligibility for food stamps, and if the State compared to the national requirements. Mr. Miller said that for both the State and nationally, eligibility is determined by level of income; less, work, hospital, and child care expenses.

Senator Lamb felt that a "trigger device" was needed in order that funds will be available in case the current trend of unemployment continues.

Mr. Barrett said that individuals who are eligible for Aid for Dependent Children, are also eligible for medical benefits provided by Title 19.

Senator Young and Raggio were concerned as to the exact benefits served by Title 20. Mr. Miller said that he would attempt to provide a summary of Title 20.

Senator Young asked how projections are made on food stamps. Mr. Miller said that figure comparisons are made with other states, on a population basis. Mr. Miller said that Nevada has reached the level of users predicted for June 30, 1975. Mr. Miller said if there isn't a decline in unemployment in the second year of the biennium and supplemental funds are needed, perhaps the agency can appeal to the Interim Finance Committee. Senator Lamb said that the Interim budget isn't that large, and the anticipated problem should be projected into the budget now.

Mr. Miller asked if he could inform the Committee of the problem presented by the Anesthesiologists in Southern Nevada. Mr. Miller said that twenty out of twenty-three of the anesthesiologists in Southern Nevada will not take regular Title 19 patients. Mr. Miller said that in Reno, there is no problem.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:


SHEBA L. WOOLLEY, SECRETARY

APPROVED:


FLOYD R. LAMB, CHAIRMAN