

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
APRIL 24, 1975

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The meeting was called to order at 8:09 a.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 Administration
John Duarte, Welfare Administration
George Thornton, T - Lazy - S Ranch
Charles B. Thornton, T - Lazy - S Ranch
Richard Siegel, Political Scientist, UNR
Mrs. Kazuko Nojima, Churchill County Welfare
Joe Braswell, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada
Barbara Brady, Clark County Commissioner
Doris Carpenter, Washoe County Welfare
Carol Alldredge, SB 172
Gay Henderson, Handicapped Training Home
William Hadley, Washoe County Attorney General
Dr. Otto Ravenholt, Clark County Health Officer
Bill Labadie, Welfare Administration

ROCK CREEK

Mr. Charles B. Thornton and George Thornton in representing the T - Lazy - S Ranch said that they do not support a dam per se, however, they do oppose the lack of consideration shown by the Fair and Recreation Board of Lander County to the users of the creek, and to Pershing County Water District. Mr. Chas. Thornton said that his ranch spends \$50,000 per year in property taxes and employes 25 people, and this can not be possible if they do not have water, and Rock Creek supplies 2/3's of the ranch's surface water. Senator Lamb asked if the dam was constructed what affect would this have on your water. Mr. Chas. Thornton said that he did not know, but would not be opposed to an objective study. Senator Monroe said that the Board has now re-constructed the bill to include a hydrological study of the down-stream users' impact. Mr. Chas. Thornton said that he fears that this study might be biased and superficial. Senator Young asked what could be done in two years to assure objectivity. Mr. Chas. Thornton said the Board could communicate with the users and in two years present a bill that is comfortable to everyone involved. Senator Lamb said that this should be resolved on a local level and then brought as a joint effort before the Committee.

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SB 168

Mr. John Duarte explained to the Committee the two projections for SB 168. Mr. Duarte said that the State costs involved for the 15.5% projection of Regular ADC for Unemployed Fathers is \$3,342,925, and the 25.0% projection is \$5,231,566. Mr. George Miller said that the Special Unemployment Assistance (SUA) program provides the same benefits for those eligible for this SB 168 proposal, and benefits under SUA are as high as \$85.00 per week, per person. Mr. Duarte said that the 15.5% projection is more realistic at this time, with the present economy. Mr. Duarte said that 2,325 people could be served by the 15.5% projection, and this would mean \$51.75 grant payments, \$1,443,825 ADC for 1976 (fiscal), and \$1,588,208 ADC for 1977 (fiscal); and \$966,177 Title 19 costs for 1976, and \$1,168,982 Title 19 costs for 1977. Senator Young asked how many other states had this program. Mr. Duarte said twenty-five and the District of Columbia.

Mr. Richard Siegel said that this bill had more to do with the integrity of the family than any other. Mr. Siegel said that this bill provides for 50% federal matching, and this is better than forcing a broken home, or having the family on general assistance. Mr. Siegel said that his priority was seeing that the current needy receive adequate benefits instead of raising the ADC levels. Mr. George Miller said that he did not agree that the priority should be this bill over the raising of ADC, and added that there is not any proof that this type of program would affect the possibility of a broken home, or not. Senator Lamb said that he and Senator Brown had a phone call from a man who separated from his wife so that she could receive the benefits from welfare, and then was not able to reside in his home, or the benefits would be discontinued.

Mrs. Kazuko Nojima said that Churchill County and White Pine County cannot afford a program such as this. Senator Young asked what would the responsibility of the counties be. Mr. Joe Braswell said that the majority of counties do not grant cash assistance, but "in-kind" assistance. Mrs. Barbara Brady said that Clark County pays \$149.00 per month for a family of four, and most of these are on the rolls for an average of three months. Mrs. Doris Carpenter said that Washoe County does not spend much money in this area, and it amounts to about \$1,500 per month for everyone.

SB 172

Mr. Duarte said that this is a State supplement request which would be additional to the regular SSI benefits. Mr. Duarte said that the State supplemental amounts for a single recipient would amount to \$66.75 per month, and \$124.00 per month for couples. Mr. Duarte said that there are now 1605 recipients now on the rolls, and it is projected for February of the fiscal year 1976, that there will be 1,860 (1,818 single, and 42 couples) on the rolls, and for 1977

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(fiscal) 2,060 (2,014 single, and 46 couples). Mr. Duarte said that projections have also been made for the 10% of the caseloads who fall in the category between \$146.00 per month and \$212.75 per month.

Mrs. Carol Alldredge questioned the projections made by Welfare Administration, and suggested that they were too high. Mr. Duarte substantiated his figures.

Mrs. Gay Henderson introduced two of her guests from the Training Home and said that employment for these people is unrealistic, and it is usually left up to the family to care for them for life. Mrs. Henderson and her guests said that this supplement would help them gain independence.

Mrs. Brady said that this supplement would save Clark County about \$70,000 in medical costs, which differs with the State's estimates. Mr. Duarte said that his projections are for new eligibles, or mainly for out-patient charges.

Mr. Braswell said that as for the Indian, once the family qualifies for SSI, the Council can no longer help meet their needs, so a State supplement is badly needed, especially for the aged.

Mrs. Brady said that in some states the applicant contracts with the SSA, so that the federal government is responsible for the application, however, this is not done here. Mrs. Brady said that Clark County has approximately \$88,000 in bills that cannot be collected, because the applicant died before the application was completed.

SB 171

Senator Lamb asked if Dr. Ravenholt had any idea of the cost of this bill. Mrs. Brady said that the cost to Southern Memorial Hospital in Las Vegas was between \$30,000 to \$35,000. Senator Lamb questioned if a similar piece of legislation hadn't been vetoed by the Governor in 1963, because of unconstitutionality. Mr. William Hadley said that the Attorney General's office wrote an opinion on this, and the counties haven't any authority with this. Mr. Hadley said that Section 12 (Line 31) of the bill is unworkable in its present form, as Welfare should make determinations, and not the District Attorney's office, concerning indigency. Mrs. Brady said that the Clark County District Attorney would like it deleted also.

Senators Young and Lamb felt that a cost figure was necessary in order to further discuss this bill. Dr. Ravenholt said that this should be related to county hospitals too.

SB 359

Dr. Ravenholt said that .11¢ will be contributed by the counties as an ad valorem levy, and the counties would like to be assured that this will be contributed to hospital costs. Mr. Miller said to Senator

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Lamb that it doesn't matter to him who pays the money, just so the Administration receives it. Dr. Ravenholt said that there needs to be some mechanism to match the "open-door" policy of the hospital so that bills for service can be collected. Mr. Miller said that Nevada cannot have a contract with SSA on the applications, and other states have this under other programs. Mr. Miller said there is no law for collection because applicants have no status.

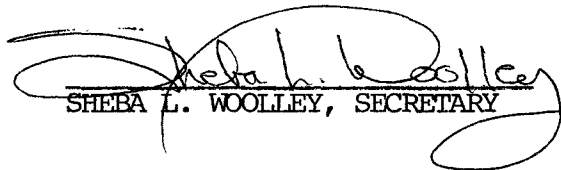
SB 461

Mr. Hadley said that this bill was written by Washoe County because SB 92 had certain limitations that concerned the county. Senator Lamb asked about the cost of this to the State. Mrs. Carpenter said that under Title 20, the County pays 25%, and the Federal Government pays 75%, and there would be no cost to the State for Washoe and Clark counties. Mr. Hadley said that in two years the counties will probably ask the State to pick up this matching. Mr. Hadley said that the county bill included a specific definition of a 'handicapped child', whereas the State bill left this out, and the county broadened the definition of a neglected child. Mr. William Labadie said that the definition of the 'handicapped child' was re-defined in the reprint of the State bill.

Mr. Braswell said that this would give the authority to tribal courts to place children in the custody of the Welfare Division, maintain legality under State statute and under contract with the Bureau of Indian Affairs concerning child placement.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:


SHEBA L. WOOLLEY, SECRETARY

APPROVED:


FLOYD R. LAMB, CHAIRMAN