

SENATE LEGISLATIVE FUNCTIONS COMMITTEE
 ASSEMBLY LEGISLATIVE FUNCTIONS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF JOINT MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 1975

A joint hearing of the Senate and Assembly Legislative Functions Committees was held on Tuesday Evening, March 11, 1975 at 7:30 pm.

Chairmen Senator Warren Monroe and Assemblyman Darrell Dreyer were in the Chair.

PRESENT WERE:

Chairman Warren Monroe
 Vice Chairman Mel Close
 Senator James Gibson
 Senator Mahlon Brown
 Senator Gene Echols
 Senator Floyd Lamb
 Senator Cliff Young
 Chairman Darrell Dreyer
 Vice Chairman Marion Bennett
 Assemblyman Eileen Brookman
 Assemblyman Don Mello
 Assemblyman Nash Sena
 Assemblyman Lawrence Jacobsen
 Assemblyman Sue Wagener

ALSO PRESENT WERE:

Assemblyman Joe Dini
 Martha Jessup, President, AAUW
 Robin Morgan, President, Women Voters of Nevada
 Father Larry Dunphy, Common Cause
 Robert Coffin, Clark County Democratic Central Committee
 Elmer Ruscoe, Common Cause
 Connie Fry, AAUW
 David Halpin, Common Cause
 Dorothy Paulson, Chirman, Visual Arts
 Merle Snyder, Chairman, Council of the Arts
 Steve Pulkinen, Legislative Education and Action Forum (LEAF)
 Esther Nicholson, Boulder City Democrats
 Shirley Weedow, PTA
 Betty Carlson, PTA
 Pam Wilcox, Local citizen
 John Crossley, Legislative Counsel Bureau
 Assemblyman Patrick Murphy
 Judith Dankel, AAUW
 Assemblyman Virgil Getto
 Senator Richard Bryan
 Douglas Miller, Representing Industry
 Richard Bennett, Legislative Counsel Bureau
 Assemblyman Jean Ford
 Many visitors.

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Chairman Warren Monroe brought the hearing to order and informed those present that this hearing would be for testimony on all legislative reform measures which had been proposed for this 58th Session of the Nevada State Legislature.* Because of the many witnesses wishing to testify, they were asked to please speak on all bills in which they were interested when they approached the speaker's stand for testimony. (They would only be able to speak one time). He also stated that there would be a three (3) minute limit to each testimony. Senator Monroe then requested that Assemblyman Dini open the meeting with his report.

ASSEMBLYMAN JOE DINI presented his report from the LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION'S SUBCOMMITTEE FOR STUDY OF COUNSEL BUREAU ORGANIZATION AND LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURES. (See attachments 1 and 1-a)

Martha Jessup, President, Nevada State Division, American Association of University Women, testified and her written testimony is attached and is hereby made part of the record. (See attachment 2.)

Robin Morgan, President, League of Women Voters of Nevada, was the next to testify. She stated that the League has had, as a major study item since 1965, the Nevada Legislature. They had arrived at a consensus on many issues during the last nine months. The League supported the following measures because they will allow the best utilization of legislative time and enactment of higher quality legislation in the public interest: AR 15, SR 15, AB 263, SB 234, AJR 13, AJR 11, AJR 12, AR 11, SR 14, AR 12, SR 9, SR 7, and AB 266.

Father Larry Dumphy, Common Cause, was the next speaker. He testified that Common Cause was concerned about what government is doing both Federally and Statewide. They supported AB 263, SB 193, AB 266, ACR 10, AJR 12, SR 14 and AB 336.

Robert Coffin, Clark County Democratic Central Committee, testified next stating that he felt the Action Committee had worked hard on these bills and they were measures the Legislators could live with. He urged a "do pass" on this package of bills.

Elmer Ruscoe, speaking as an individual member of Common Cause spoke about the background of the "open proposal systems" which includes open meetings, registration of lobbyists, disclosure provisions, conflict of interest, campaign finance legislation, and the proposal to study administrative procedures. He felt there should be open meetings because citizens are losing confidence in their government. He also endorsed the Citizens Commission because the Committee report is an excellent study.

Connie Fry, American Association of University Women, then testified in support of AJR 11 and the "open hearings" bill.

*See Attachment 8

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Dave Halpin, an individual representative of Common Cause, then stated that he felt there was a lot of change and this package was one way of dealing with this change. He was in favor of the open meetings, although, there were times that closed meetings were warranted and he felt if there were explanations given to the public as to why meetings had to be closed, this would be a positive step toward interaction between the Legislators and their constituents.

Dorothy Paulson, Chairman of the Visual Arts of the Nevada-American Revolution Bi-centennial Committee was next to testify. She was in favor of SB 231 because she felt it was most deplorable that none of the State buildings displayed any murals or fine works of art. She said we were one of the few states in the Union that did not enhance its buildings with fine works of art. She then discussed the mural for the foyer of the Legislative Building. The project would be open competition to any living Nevada artist. The artist would submit a full-scale, fully executed painting to a panel of committee members who have already been selected, who would be competent judges.

Merle Snyder, Chairman of the Council of Arts, testified next. He said, in respect to SB 231, the Council has endorsed this project as it feels it is an excellent one. He also endorsed the five day notice of hearings; the costs for drafting bills, (but would like to set up guidelines); and also joint hearings.

Steve Pulkinen, Legislative Education and Action Forum (LEAF), related that his group did not take votes on Legislative issues, but they do try to present them to people in Reno. He said that he was not representing LEAF tonight, but was representing himself. He discussed things he felt were wrong with the Legislature, i.e. taking one minute recesses, introducing guests on the floor, reading witty poems into the record. He felt that while all of this was going on the money committees of both houses were making decisions without the benefit of public debate by the total legislative body. He urged particular consideration be given to AJR 11.

Esther Nicholson read a statement of the Boulder City Democratic Club. A copy is hereby attached and is part of the record. (See attachment 3)

Shirley Weedow, PTA, then testified that the PTA studied the package during their June meeting and at that time the Board of Managers adopted a resolution in support of the "Legislative Improvement Package" concept. The Board supported many of the individual recommendations. They strongly supported the recommendation to have a Citizens Commission to further study the Legislative process.

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Pam Wilcox, a local citizen, testified next. She was impressed with the reforms that had been proposed because they would make it easier for the citizen to find out what is going on. She said she hoped the package would be voted upon favorably.

John Crossley, Legislative Counsel Bureau, Audit Staff, stood and stated that he would testify at the regular meetings of the individual Legislative Functions Committees.

Assemblyman Patrick Murphy testified that there were those who would oppose this package because they felt Nevada wasn't big enough for all these reforms and changes in the Legislature. He said we should be concerned not with number but with the quality of the Legislature. A good attribute was that many of the bills did not have any fiscal note, and if they did, it was very minimal. He supported AR 15 and SR 15. He also concurred in Mr. Dini's support of this package.

Judith Dankel, President of the Reno Branch of the American Association of University Women. She supported AB 263 and ACR 10.

Assemblyman Virgil Getto testified next. He commended the Committee that had spent so much time on these bills. He said the Committee should take serious consideration in restoring the public confidence and said that these bills would do this. He was specifically in favor of the bill that would provide or allow for performance auditing by our Fiscal Analyst.

Senator Richard Bryan then spoke as a member of the subcommittee. He said he didn't suggest that each proposal was perfect, but hoped they would be considered in the spirit in which they were intended. The purpose of the Committee in submitting these bills was there was certainly room for improvement.

Douglas Miller, who represented Industry within the State of Nevada, complimented the members of the Committee who prepared the bulletin. He said that Bulletin 114, he felt, was a good one.

Dick Bennett, Legislative Counsel Bureau, Legal Department, said that legislation was necessary in the areas which the proposals covered.

Assemblyman Jean Ford then testified. She said she basically supported all of the proposals. She also had a memo which she discussed with the committee. A copy is hereby attached (See attachment 4) and made a part of the record. Mrs. Ford stated that the memo was a record of the Daily Journals which showed they had worked 45 minutes per calendar day or 67 minutes per Legislative day. She felt they could make better use of their time from the first day and they they could then possibly justify a raise in salary.

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(Continuation of testimony by Assemblyman Jean Ford.)

Assemblyman Ford continued by stating that she basically supported all of the recommendations in the report. It was interesting to take a look at the time we have actually spent at this Legislative Session in what is called the General Session. She had taken the number of minutes per day spent in the Assembly since they opened on January 20, 1975, and arrived at an average of 45 minutes per calendar day - days which they have been paid - or 67 minutes on the Legislative days - days which they actually worked. This was taken from the official Journals. She said she knew they had worked in committee meetings, in caucus, and in individual research. The recommendations that she made (see report) would allow the Legislators to gear up ahead of time and be prepared so that once the Session begins, they can utilize the days more fully from the very first day. She believed that with this type of recommendation we would deserve the money we are getting and perhaps even an increase. She knew it was an actual financial sacrifice for the people who serve in the Legislature but felt they should be trying to utilize their time better while working on policy development, preparation of bills, through pre-session organization, pre-session orientation; so, that when they arrived for Session they could spend a full day's work in actual legislating.

Senator Lamb said that he resented her saying this because she did not mention the hours and hours that were spent in committee. Mrs. Ford said, "The minutes listed here do not reflect committees, caucuses, or individual concern." She was further admonished by the committee for not mentioning this in her report and further for furnishing the report to the press.

Assemblyman Dreyer said he felt this was very misleading. Mrs. Ford said it spelled out the number of minutes in the official Journal that we were in Legislative Session. Senator Monroe stated that she had stated the number of hours that we work at the Legislature, and we went to work here at 8:30 this morning and it is now 9:30 p.m. and we are still working. It was pointed out that Mr. Jacobsen had just spent 6 hours in on^e committee hearing in this room today and was now into another 3 hours at this Committee Hearing - that's nine hours in committee hearings in one day alone, and Mrs. Ford was saying this man doesn't work but 67 minutes a day. Mrs. Ford said no. The Committee remarked that this was where it was very misleading.

Senator Lamb stated that the first day of the Session, the Senate Finance Committee met and they haven't missed a day since. That they had met from two to three hours every morning and every time there was a minute to spare between the Sessions, if they can get a quorum. Mrs. Ford said that it was not intended to be

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misleading. It is intended to explain to ourselves and to the public the little bit of time that we put in actual legislating.

Assemblyman Dreyer quoted from Mrs. Ford's memo the lines stating that we only worked 45 and 67 minutes. He said he was a member of the Ways and Means Committee and spent three hours there every morning, but you have me working only 67 minutes a day; not counting the other committees that we serve on. He continued, "You know yourself, you put in more than 67 minutes. You serve on several committees. Assemblyman Ford said she was really sorry that she had caused this misinterpretation. She then asked for a moment, as she had apparently aroused their ire, she would like to justify what she did.

"The public only has the Journal to look at. This does not reflect committee meetings. The Journal has us coming in at 11:00, recessing at 11:07, coming back in at 11:12 and recessing at 11:16; you will find that when you add these up, these are the minutes that we are actually legislating. I feel that we can utilize our time better than the way we are using it in the General Session at this time."

Mr. Dreyer stated that "number one, the public, as you say, reads the Journal; but the public is not dumb. They know we have to have committee meetings and they realize we spend much time in these committee meetings. I would like, if you want to go through with this, take the first 47 days or, if you like, take the last 47 days of the last two sessions and just check the hours. For instance, like going in and staying until 2:00 in the morning on Legislative action on the floor. If you are going to put down the hours, Jean, be honest, be fair. This comes out in the press tomorrow and the people up and down the State are going to read that we work, according to your own words, 67 minutes a day. You go back and campaign for reelection and you have told the people you only work 67 minutes a day. You say that in your campaign for reelection. They know better than that, Jean. No one works harder than you."

Assemblyman Ford said that she felt that no one in this Legislature has defended the Legislature more than she; and, defended the kind of work we all do. She had always gone to bat for more money, more staff and more time to do the job. She thought that it was an interesting reflection though that the actual action that takes place, action that creates new laws, is not in Committee. It was action on the Floor. Therefore, what she was suggesting is that by going into the kind of improvements on page two, we could come up here the first week of the Session and spend not 85 minutes actually legislating, but possibly three or four hours. We could be done in 60 days - what the

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citizens expect us to be doing - if we prepared ourselves better before we came. We do not need to be in a formal Legislative Session to prepare policy, to draft bills, to put together ideas, to get ready. That is all she was suggesting. It is no way to reflect badly on this Legislature. "I think there are ways we can make it better."

Mr. Dreyer stated that as a member of the press, he thought he knew a story when he saw it, namely, "we work 67 minutes." You can say anything else you want, and I'm not knocking my colleagues in my other profession; I am just saying this is one heck of a way to get a good story and be very misleading to the public.

Mrs. Ford said she would be happy to collect all of the copies and burn them.

Senator Close said he wanted to bring out that all the bills ^{that} are worked on in committee before they can be brought to the floor for vote. He said one thing that had saved time was the voting machines. "Now, if you taking the voting machine out, you might double the time you are spending in General Session. I think it's important for the people to know that these times you are giving them are one-half of what they were two years ago. One of the things you are talking about is doing away with reading the History. These are all things that would reduce the time spent in General Session so that we could do the real work in the committees. When it comes out like this, it is misleading. There is nothing that you can tell people when this comes out - and it will be a headline. Now, people will think they can read the Journals and know exactly how hard we work.

Mrs. Ford said she realized this. She had given 25 or 30 talks in the last six months on the Legislative process and she had defended everyone when she gave these talks. That the committee process is the most important and that's why we have more recommendations in here on how to improve the committee process. "I apologize if it looks like I have tried to deliberately mislead. That was not my intention."

Senator Monroe asked Mrs. Ford if she would like to enter a statement into the record about her statement being misleading. She said she certainly would because that was not her intent. "I thought I stated here that the amount of work that I listed is what is in the formal Session on the floor, which is recorded officially in the Journal. We do twenty times that every day. I start at 8:00 in the morning and I am still going late at night, as I know all of you are. I greatly defend the work that is done, however, the action work that is done in the General Session that goes into the laws and makes the laws of this State, takes very little time. That is the amount of days that the public feels we should

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be here to legislate, and I feel we should utilize our time so that we can get our work done. One point that I will raise here, is that we could get our work done within the number of days that the people feel we should if we organized ourselves so that we spent more than 85 minutes on the floor. I would be happy to explain that. I would be happy to write an addendum. I would be happy to take all the copies and tear them up if you feel they are dangerous. I was only trying to make a point."

Representatives of the Northwest Reno Improvement Association presented a memo which is attached (See attachment 5) and is a part of the record.

Robert D. Norris submitted a letter which is hereby attached (See attachment 6) and is a part of the record.

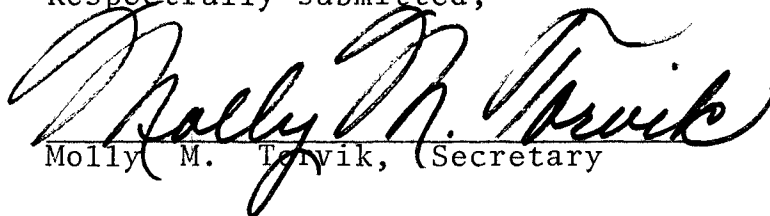
Irv. Jesse Sandorf, of Common Cause, submitted a letter which is hereby attached (See attachment 7) and is a part of the record.

Senator Echols said he wanted to commend those that had attended the hearing and had testified.

Assemblyman Dini submitted a paper showing the work load of each committee during the 57th session. It is attached and made a copy of the record. (See attachment 1-a).

Senator Monroe thanked all for attending and there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,


Molly M. Tarvik, (Secretary)

APPROVED BY:

Warren L. Monroe
Senator Warren Monroe, Chairman

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Attachment 1

Nevada Legislature

FIFTY-EIGHTH SESSION

PRESENTATION TO JOINT LEGISLATIVE FUNCTIONS COMMITTEE HEARING

March 11, 1975

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to appear before your committee and present the report from the LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION'S SUBCOMMITTEE FOR STUDY OF COUNSEL BUREAU ORGANIZATION AND LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURES.

The study was the result of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 23 of the 57th Session directing the legislative commission to study legislative organization, procedures and operations and report recommendations to the 58th Session of the Nevada Legislature.

Recognition of inadequacies and inefficiencies in legislative methods, procedures and staff support for the Nevada Legislature was reflected in two tangible ways during the 57th Session. First, during that session, 36 bills and resolutions were introduced to change and update legislative rules and procedures. Of these, 11 were adopted. It was evident that many legislators were convinced that improvements were both possible and necessary, and that there had to be a better way to do many of the things that the legislature did during its 100 day plus session of 1973. The legislative commission appointed the Subcommittee which over a 10 month period sought to solicit the best ideas to improve the effectiveness and responsiveness of the legislature. The subcommittee was chaired by me with Assemblyman Jean Ford as Vice Chairman and included Senators Clifton Young and Richard Bryan and Assemblyman Margie Foote, Lawrence Jacobsen and James Ullom. The report transmitted was the result of at least four basic undertakings by the subcommittee

1. An extensive questionnaire was sent to each legislator in the Fall of 1973. It included questions on virtually all aspects of the legislative process. Over 70 percent responded and of those, 94 percent agreed that changes for improvement were in order.
2. An independent analysis of the Nevada legislature was conducted by the Citizens Conference on State Legislatures. This study was funded by the Legislative Commission and was used as a guide for the formation of our final report.

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3. In hearings held in Las Vegas as well as Carson City, representatives of a broad spectrum of Nevada citizenry expressed their views on the major proposals for change. A great deal of the testimony was expert and well grounded in experience.
4. The subcommittee, after lengthy consideration, distilled the numerous recommendations, refined some, amended others and rejected several as well. The result was Report #114.

The report represents the thinking and experience of people too numerous to mention. What they all had in common with the members of the subcommittee was a strong commitment to legislative improvement. Understandably, there was not always agreement on the best road to travel to get to that goal. As a result, while many recommendations in the report were agreed to unanimously, others were hotly debated and approved with strong dissent.

A unifying thread through the subcommittee's deliberations was the agreement that change would be recommended only for definite and foreseeable improvement, not simply for the sake of change. The report reflects that consensus.

The report makes specific recommendations in several broad areas including increased accessibility of the Legislature to our citizens, increased capacity of legislators to be informed, improved utilization of the biennium, and increased participation of all legislators in the budget process.

While the recommendations included herein were conceived of as part of a total program of reform, and are, in some cases, interlocking, most of the recommendations can stand on their own.

Adoption of any of the proposals should result in some improvement in the effectiveness and efficiency of the legislature. Adoption of all or most of the proposals should lead toward the optimum in legislative efficiency, effectiveness, and responsiveness for the State of Nevada.

SUMMARY OF RESPONSE TO LEGISLATIVE QUESTIONNAIRE

A thirteen-page questionnaire was developed by the Interim Study Committee on Legislative Operations and Procedures and mailed to all members of the Nevada Legislature in September of 1973. A follow-up reminder and some personal contacts resulted in the return of 42 completed questionnaires for a 70 percent response.

Those responding included 27 Democrats and 15 Republicans, 12 out of 20 Senators, 30 out of 40 Assemblymen; 16 of the respondents are serving their first term of office, another 16 have three to eight years of service, 9 have more than eight years of service, and I did not identify length of service.

General Evaluation. A need for major improvement was felt by 17 percent of those responding; an additional 77 percent felt the Nevada Legislature needs some improvement, leaving 6 percent feeling a need for little improvement or had no opinion.

As a part of a general evaluation, the respondents rated the Legislature's performance in the following four principal tasks as follows:

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Undecided
___ Formulating state policies and programs	2	11	20	8	1
___ Appropriating funds for state government and programs	7	19	13	2	
___ Overseeing and supervising fiscal accountability and evaluating the effectiveness of state programs		7	18	16	
___ Representing and helping out constituents	2	15	21	3	1

The overall strength or influence of the Legislature was rated as follows:

	Legislature has			
	more to say?	about the same?	less?	undecided
— as compared to that of the Office of Governor	1	12	28	
— as compared to that of the executive departments and agencies	14	13	11	1
— as compared to that of interest groups and lobbies in the state	22	9	7	1

The rest of the questionnaire had extensive sections regarding Committees; Session Structure, Policy, and Procedure; Interim Organization and Function; Budget and Appropriations; Space, Staff, and Facilities; Compensation; and Citizen Education and Involvement.

An analysis of the questionnaires returned indicated numerous areas of agreement of 50 percent or more of the respondents. Each of these areas (with the percentage of those favoring the proposal) is listed in one or more of the categories below:

A. CHANGES AND/OR MODIFICATIONS THAT COULD RESULT IN TIME-SAVING AND POSSIBLE SHORTENING OF LENGTH OF SESSION AND ACCOMPANYING REDUCTION IN COSTS

Numbers and Percentages in Favor

- * 31 or 74% 1. Jurisdiction of each committee clearly stated in standing rules so that bills are referred strictly according to their subject matter rather than the preference of a sponsor
- * 36 or 86% 2. Pre-session orientation of one to two days soon after November election with travel and per diem but no salary
- * 40 or 95% 3. Pre-filing and pre-printing of bills before session begins

* = represents a majority of the entire Legislature though not necessarily of both Senate and Assembly

- * 32 or 76% 4. Adoption of consent calendar (floor action taken periodically on groups of uncontested bills as one bill)
 - 26 or 62% 5. Observers and guests sign Official Guest Registry with names printed in Journal; Speaker introduces groups and special dignitaries; all other introductions discontinued
 - 25 or 59% 6. Discontinuance of reading by Chief Clerk or Secretary of History of bill at time of floor action
 - 30 or 71% 7. Use of uniform stationery format for legislator's letterhead, note pads, and other printing needs to conserve costs
 - 27 or 64% 8. Authority for and use of legislative latitude in scheduling the session--convening, recessing, adjourning, etc.
 - 27 or 64% 9. A specific proposal to convene for short time (such as 1 week), organize, receive Governor's message and budget, etc., then recess for 2-3 weeks to allow major part of bill drafting to be completed, reconvene and continue until adjournment (several slight modifications suggested)
 - 26 or 62% 10. Much more staff for drafting and summarizing bills
 - * 32 or 76% 11. Electronic voting equipment installed in one or more chambers
- B. CHANGES AND/OR MODIFICATIONS THAT COULD RESULT IN INCREASED EFFICIENCY, AND IMPROVED QUALITY AND DEGREE OF PRODUCTIVITY
- * 36 or 86% 1. Parallel committees in both houses
 - 30 or 71% 2. Parallel meeting times for committees in both houses

* = represents a majority of the entire Legislature though not necessarily of both Senate and Assembly

- * 32 or 76% 3. A maximum number of committees to which legislators can be assigned (suggestions ranging from 2 to 4 committees)
- * 36 or 86% 4. Pre-session orientation of one or two days soon after November election with travel and per diem but no salary
- 30 or 71% 5. Summary analysis of the provisions of each major bill reported out of committee
- 26 or 62% 6. Constitutional amendment to allow Legislature to call itself into session
- 27 or 64% 7. Constitutional amendment to allow Legislature to add agenda items to Special Session called by Governor
- 28 or 67% 8. Constitutional amendment to allow a later opening date in years in which there is a new Governor-Elect (to allow reasonable period for executive budget formulation)
- 27 or 64% 9. Authority for and use of legislative latitude in scheduling the session--convening, recessing, adjourning, etc.
- 24 or 57% 10. State Printing Office absorbed by the Legislative Counsel Bureau to facilitate legislative printing needs (both in session and during the interim period)
- 30 or 71% 11. Use of uniform stationery format for legislator's letterhead, note pads, and other printing needs to conserve costs
- 27 or 64% 12. A specific proposal to convene, recess, convene (described under A-9)
- 21 or 50% 13. Proportion of party representation on committees by ratio in each house rather than present one-man majority
- 21 or 50% 14. Standing committees of the regular session of both houses become interim joint standing committees (with fairly equal division as to whether or not they should be under supervision of Legislative Commission)

* = represents a majority of the entire Legislature though not necessarily of both Senate and Assembly

- * 32 or 76% 15. Departmental budget requests submitted to Legislative Counsel Bureau at same time they are submitted to Budget Officer (for Legislature's own evaluation of information)
 - 26 or 62% 16. Consideration of appropriations bills not included in budget by the appropriate policy committee as well as the money committee
 - 26 or 62% 17. Preparation of separate bills containing major components (such as entire budget of Department of Health, Welfare and Rehabilitation) for debate and action on floor instead of one budget bill at end of session
 - 27 or 64% 18. Policy committees invited to join money committees in hearings on section of budget pertinent to that committee (i.e., Education committee joins in when Education budget hearings are held)
 - 30 or 71% 19. Budget bill or bills accompanied by a written committee report containing a clear statement of overall budget and items of legislative intent
 - 25 or 59% 20. Post audit program to include checking proper accounting procedures but also look at legislative intent and program performance
 - 21 or 50% 21. High priority for professional staff for standing committees
- C. CHANGES AND/OR MODIFICATIONS THAT COULD RESULT IN INCREASED PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OR INCREASE PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS
- * 34 or 81% 1. Adoption of code of ethics
 - * 34 or 81% 2. Adoption of open meeting policy for all legislative committees
 - 22 or 52% 3. Adoption of additional and stronger laws regarding registration of lobbyists

* = represents a majority of the entire Legislature though not necessarily of both Senate and Assembly

- | | | |
|-------------|-----|---|
| 25 or 59% | 4. | Adoption of more comprehensive campaign finance legislation |
| 21 or 50% | 5. | Standing committees of the regular session of both houses become joint standing committees in the interim |
| 29 or 69% | 6. | Individual offices for each legislator |
| 27 or 64% | 7. | Travel expenses for standing committee hearings held outside of Carson City-- during the Session |
| * 31 or 74% | 8. | Establishment of Citizen's Compensation Commission for the purpose of advising the Legislature regarding appropriate salaries |
| 25 or 59% | 9. | Formation of a Citizen's Commission to work closely with the Legislature to review and then act as an advocate throughout the State for recommended changes |
| 30 or 71% | 10. | Convening of a state-wide conference on the Nevada Legislature to provide a forum for legislators, citizens, lobbyists, elected and appointed officials, etc. to discuss methods of improving the effectiveness of the Nevada Legislature |

D. CHANGES AND/OR MODIFICATIONS THAT COULD RESULT IN INCREASED EXPENDITURES FOR IMPLEMENTATION (EACH IS ALSO LISTED IN ONE OF THE "BENEFIT" CATEGORIES ABOVE):

- | | | |
|-------------|----|--|
| * 36 or 86% | 1. | Pre-session orientation |
| * 32 or 76% | 2. | Electronic voting equipment |
| * 34 or 81% | 3. | Ethics commission in connection with code of ethics |
| 21 or 50% | 4. | Interim joint standing committees |
| 25 or 59% | 5. | Auditing of program performance in addition to accounting procedures |
| 21 or 50% | 6. | Professional staff for standing committees |

* = represents a majority of the entire Legislature though not necessarily of both Senate and Assembly

- 29 or 69% 7. Individual office for each legislator
- 27 or 64% 8. Travel expenses for standing committees to meet outside of Carson City
- 25 or 59% 9. Citizen's Commission on the Legislature
- * 31 or 74% 10. Compensation Commission
- 30 or 71% 11. State-wide conference on the Legislature

* = represents a majority of the entire Legislature though not necessarily of both Senate and Assembly

March 11, 1975

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Members of the Senate and Assembly Legislative
Functions Committee

From: Martha Jessup, President,
Nevada State Division,
American Association of University Women

I am Martha Jessup, President of the Nevada State Division of the American Association of University Women.

The April, 1974, Convention of the Nevada AAUW adopted the following resolution:

"AAUW should support measures to make the legislature more accessible, visible and accountable resulting in more efficient and functional operations and procedures, a more informed legislature with increased capacity for responsible decisions and budget making. This would include longer sessions paid to match time spent, increased staff, and standing committee operations."

The Nevada State Legislature faces a rapidly growing population in addition to increasingly complex problems. It is essential that our state government streamline its operations to effectively and efficiently meet the needs of Nevada's citizens.

AAUW commends the 1973 Legislature for establishing the commission to study legislative organizational procedures and operations. We, too, believe that improvement is best accomplished by a complete overview and a total program of reform.

AAUW is particularly interested in several areas of legislative reform.

We urge a change to compensation for legislative rather than calendar days. A less concentrated legislative session would enable the Legislators to be better informed, have a greater exchange of ideas among themselves and with the public, thereby increasing their decision-making ability.

We support the establishment of interim standing committees which would increase the ability of Nevada's elected officials to govern the State in an orderly and consistent manner throughout their full term of office.

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Citizens are vitally interested in their government as never before and in part for very negative reasons. The Legislature should adopt an open meeting policy for themselves just as they have mandated open meetings for other public bodies. Since much of the business of the Legislature is handled in committees, it is important that records of committee discussions and votes be available.

In this era of unparalleled growth and change it is imperative that the Nevada State Legislature adopt new procedures appropriate for Nevada in 1975 and beyond.

STATEMENT OF THE BOULDER CITY DEMOCRATIC CLUB APPROVED AT THEIR
MEETING MONDAY EVENING, MARCH 10, 1975

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The Boulder City Democratic Club supports the study and recommendations for improving the legislative process made by the sub-committee of the Legislative Commission, and urges the joint Legislative Functions Committees to approve passage of the enabling legislation especially:

AJR 26 of the 57th session and AJR 11 and 13 of this session concerning legislative days, pay and pre-session organization.

AB 263, AR 15, SR 15 and ACR 10 concerning standing committees.

ACR 12, AR 13, SR 10, AR 7 and SR 8 regarding session schedule, bill histories and consent calendar.

AB 267, providing charging the cost of bill drafting to executive agencies.

AB 266, providing for the appointment of a Citizens' Advisory Commission on the legislature

and

AJR 12, giving the legislature a voice in calling a special session and in expanding the agenda of one called by the Governor.

President: Katherine Carroll

JEAN FORD
ASSEMBLYMAN
DISTRICT NO. 15 (CLARK)
3511 PUEBLO WAY
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89109
(702) 735-0375



COMMITTEES *065*
MEMBER
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS
TAXATION
HEALTH AND WELFARE

Attachment 4

Nevada Legislature

44

FIFTY-EIGHTH SESSION

March 11, 1975

To: Legislative Functions Committees of Senate & Assembly

Re: Improvement of Legislative Process

While I basically support the entire group of recommendations resulting from the Interim Subcommittee on the Legislature, I wish to direct this memo to the specific question of how to make better use of time during the Legislative Session.

First, let us take a look at our work progress this session. From an analysis of the Daily Journals of the Assembly, the following is an accounting of actual time spent by this Assembly in formal legislative session as of March 10, 1975:

January 20:	85 minutes	February 14:	107 minutes
21:	111 minutes	15:	0 minutes
22:	32 minutes	16:	0 minutes
23:	20 minutes	17:	72 minutes
24:	0 minutes	18:	79 minutes
25:	0 minutes	19:	60 minutes
26:	0 minutes	20:	96 minutes
27:	41 minutes	21:	12 minutes
28:	45 minutes	22:	0 minutes
29:	49 minutes	23:	0 minutes
30:	82 minutes	24:	94 minutes
31:	0 minutes	25:	73 minutes
February 1:	0 minutes	26:	61 minutes
2:	0 minutes	27:	53 minutes
3:	38 minutes	28:	0 minutes
4:	40 minutes	March 1:	0 minutes
5:	42 minutes	2:	0 minutes
6:	85 minutes	3:	45 minutes
7:	29 minutes	4:	72 minutes
8:	0 minutes	5:	88 minutes
9:	0 minutes	6:	66 minutes
10:	85 minutes	7:	107 minutes
11:	101 minutes		
12:	138 minutes		
13:	55 minutes		

2158 total minutes

This is an average of 45 minutes per calendar day for which the legislators are paid or 67 minutes per legislative day on which the legislators actually worked.

Are there ways to improve this record and more efficiently get the job done? My point is not to criticize any specific individuals or political parties but to suggest that the slow pace of legislative activity, which has prevailed in other sessions as well, is largely due to two factors:

- (1) the lack of adequate legal staff hired early enough by the Legislative Commission to adequately prepare the executive and legislative bill drafting requests that are made prior to the session, and
- (2) certainly laws and procedures by which we now operate.

For your consideration, I suggest that a number of the recommendations made in LCB Bulletin #114 would improve these procedures by facilitating better use of the Legislature's limited time and increasing its productivity particularly in the early weeks of the session. These are:

- AB 263 Establishes and spells out duties of Joint Legislative Functions Committee, provides for parallel standing committees and joint interim committees
- ACR 10 Provides for Joint Interim Standing Committees in joint rules; specifies interim records and reports, preprinting of drafted committee bills
- AJR 13 Allow pre-session organizational meeting
- AJR 2 of the 57th Session Amends Constitution to provide for a consent calendar
- ACR 12 Provides schedule of session deadlines for drafting requests, introduction, passage from house of origin, conference, etc.
- AR 13 Optional reading of History in General Session
- SB 234 Allows payment of travel, per diem for pre-session orientation of legislators
- AB 267 Executive branch agencies charged for drafting of agency bill requests

In addition, AJR 11 (Amends Constitution to provide compensation for legislative rather than calendar days) would allow a much more realistic picture of the Legislature's work progress as the compensation would be for each legislative working day instead of the present practice of paying by calendar days.

For instance, March 7, was the 47th calendar day, ~~but~~ *and* everyone refers to our having been in session for 47 days. Indeed, we have been paid for 47 days at this point but the Assembly has been in working session only 32 of those days.

Along the same line, history refers to the record-breaking 1973 session of 102 days, yet the Legislature, in fact, met only 75 working days.

In the interests of a more efficient, responsive, and effective Legislature, I urge your consideration of these proposals.

John Ford

March 4, 1975

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Honorable Assemblyman Darrell Dreyer, Chairman
Assembly Legislative Functions Committee

Dear Assemblyman Dreyer and members of this committee:

We, the undersigned representatives of the Northwest Reno Improvement Association (homeowners association of Northwest Reno) urge each of you to consider carefully and support the improvements for legislative methods and procedures as outlined in Bulletin No. 114 submitted by the Sub-Committee appointed by The Legislation Commission.

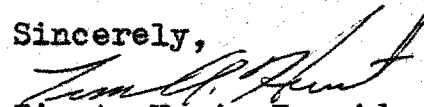
We congratulate the dedicated public servants who must have worked diligently to formulate these changes.

As set forth in Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 23 (para. 2), we concurrently agree that the Legislature of the State of Nevada is the most direct expression of the will of the people. Therefore, we as citizens of this great State, are expressing our desire that these changes for improvement in our legislative process be adopted. Hopefully these changes will be supported unanimously by our legislators. It's inconceivable how one could object to change for definite and foreseeable improvement.

It is part of our responsibilities as outlined in our Articles of Constitution to sponsor improvement programs for our members; and we sincerely hope our voices will be heard by our legislative representatives. We are asking for positive decisions for approval of this "package of reform".

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Tim A. Hunt, President
Northwest Reno Improvement Assoc.
1511 Wesley Dr.- Reno, Nev. 89503

cc: Assemblymen
Lawrence Jacobsen
Donald Mello
Marion Bennett
Nash Sena
Sue Wagner
Eileen Brookman
Albert M. Wittenberg (Rep.)


Jean Klebenow, Secretary


Barbara Swanson, Director

Robert D. Norris
Department Chemistry
University of Nevada
Reno, Nevada 89507

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FOR THE RECORD

March 11, 1975

To Legislative Functions Committee.

Dear Legislators,

I urge you to take advantage of an opportunity to improve our most important American heritage. I refer to the Legislative Reform Package. Here is an opportunity to help restore a badly eroded confidence in government as evidenced by the public response to the Watergate mess. While we certainly have not had such a calamity in Nevada, it is imperative that we do all in our power to avoid situations of undue influence and conflicts of interest. Several of the bills in this package will help in this respect.

I also strongly urge the passage of several bills which will help make more efficient the mind boggling tasks that are before you. Measures such as ACR 11, AR 7 and SR 10 should make for better use of your highly demanded time.

Certainly a good government is one which enlists participation of its citizens. Thus I urge your support of measures such as SB 19, SB 49, AR 12, SB 232, AR 11 and ACR 11 whose passage will lower the barrier of participation by interested citizens. In this respect let me remind you of the difficulties a citizen would have taking time off work in order to attend several hearings on the same issue (a problem not shared by professional lobbyists).

Thank you for your attention and best of luck with this most important task.

Robert D. Norris

Robert D. Norris

March 11, 1975

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Legislative Functions Committees
of the Nevada Senate and Assembly

I am heartily in accord with those proposals embodied in Bulletin No. 114 of the Legislative Commission of the Legislative Counsel Bureau which are relevant to the following:

1. Encouraging honesty in elections, as intended by those bills requiring reports on campaign expenditures, and those limiting the size of individual contributions and total expenditures for political campaigns.
2. Encouraging integrity in our legislative enactments as intended in those bills relating to conflict of interest, and those dealing with open meetings of committees.
3. Speeding up the legislative process, as intended in those bills providing for education (or orientation) of new members, those providing pre-session organizing, and those eliminating time-consuming and inessential requirements such as reading the history of bills in General Sessions.
4. Encouraging the continuity of legislative effectiveness between sessions, as intended in those bills providing for strengthening the interim standing committees acting jointly.
5. Encouraging economy in government operations as intended in bills requiring fiscal analysis.

I AM OPPOSED TO THOSE BILLS WHICH INVOLVE UNNECESSARY & EXPENSIVE DUPLICATION. Typical of these is one establishing a Citizens Advisory Commission. The state already has a large number of citizen boards to advise the legislature , typical of which is the Public Works Board.

During these times of high unemployment I believe the legislature should discourage those acts which increase the economic gap between the secure and well salaried employed and the low salaried and unemployed. The 15% increase in pay for state employees not only increases this gap but in addition will be a major contributor to the inflation spiral and increased resentment among the unemployed. In this category is the proposal to increase the legislative session to 100 days before a serious attempt is made to increase the efficiency of the present 60 day session.

Irv. Jesse Sandorf, PE

Vice-Chmn. Nev. Public Works Bd.

Member of Common Cause