

ASSEMBLY AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES  
FALLON, NEVADA  
MARCH 22, 1977

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Hickey  
Mr. Price  
Mr. Serpa  
Mr. Polish  
Mr. Jacobsen  
Mr. Rhoads

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Jeffrey

GUESTS PRESENT: Mr. and Mrs. Silvio Peraldo, Fallon  
Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Getto, Fallon  
Del Serpa, Fallon  
Bud Miller, Fallon  
Amilio Bell, Fallon  
Ira and Nina Kent, Fallon  
Bill and Gwen Washburn, Fallon  
Dale Lawrence, Fallon  
Larry & Judy Kute, Fallon  
Elbert Mills, Fallon

Chairman Hickey called the meeting to order by welcoming those present and introducing the members of the committee. He then proceeded to call upon those present to speak to the committee on anything of interest to them.

Silvio Peraldo stated that he was very concerned about the high cost of machinery and gas and yet the price they get for their products is going down.

He went on to cite a specific problem he has had with "rubber drafts". He stated that he was presently involved in a law suit over a draft he was given that the person later stopped payment on. He would hope that some type of legislation could be drafted to prevent this from occurring. He added that this had to do with some feed cattle that have since been moved out of the area and it involves an amount of \$13,000.

Mr. Hickey asked Mr. Peraldo to have his attorney contact one of the committee regarding this. Mr. Price stated that perhaps the Judiciary Committee could look into this but that Mr. Peraldo would have to get the information to them immediately.

It was pointed out that there is presently some federal legislation going on to make it illegal to buy cattle with drafts and that the dealers involved would be required to have cash. Mr. Rhoads stated that Oregon does have legislation of this nature on their statutes.

Mrs. Serpa stated that she to was concerned about the high costs of machinery and the low prices for products. She cited the instance of high costs for repairs on machinery. This is all not within the means of the rancher.

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Bud Miller stated that he would like to see more money in the budget for weed control. He stated that he felt it was very important to have this control on the noxious weeds such as puncture vine. They have done some work in the county on the roads and the State has indicated that they would help but they have a very limited budget.

Mr. Bell informed the committee that he was very concerned about the taxation rate especially on trucks that are used on the farm only. He stated that some of the trucks do leave the ranch but only for a few miles but they must still pay the full privilege and license fee on these trucks. He stated that there were a few farmers who go ahead and break this law and take the chance. He suggested that perhaps the rancher could pay a permit for the amount of miles he actually is on the highway.

Mr. Bell also stated that he would like to see a change in the ad valorem tax the farmer has to pay. He stated that he felt it was out dated. He stated that they pay taxes on their equipment forever. He added that he also felt something should be done on the cattle that they must pay taxes on. He cited that some of these cattle are only kept here for 90-120 days. This tax structure is keeping outsiders out of the community and penalizing the cattle buying and selling industry.

Virgil Getto stated that he thought that cattle were included in the freeport law. Mr. Bell stated that a few years ago freeport did take care of this but now it doesn't. Mr. Getto stated that a few sessions ago they took care of this by stating that a feedlot was a warehouse and if these cattle were going back out of the state they were considered under the freeport.

Mr. Jacobsen stated that Taxation had killed AB 374 in this regard so there shouldn't be any problems from this time on.

Mr. Serpa stated that he would like to ask if there were any suggestions on how the taxes on trucks could be policed. He stated that there were a lot of ranchers that do run trucks under farm plates and are not hauling their own product. They have had meetings trying to figure how to help the legitimate farm and yet get the ones who are misusing this. Mr. Bell stated that he did realize that there was a problem but that he did not really have any suggestions as to how to handle it.

Mr. Getto stated that this was a real burden on the farmer. He stated that he had 3 trucks that never operate on the road but do occasionally cross the road or maybe go down the road a mile and therefore he must pay the full license fee because they do get on the highway.

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Mrs. Getto stated that she hated to see the legislature make laws just for the exception. She added that when they change a law just in case something comes up it often times is more detrimental to the majority.

Mr. Bell stated that there was another aspect of this is that there are trucks that are not considered as a truck as such but insurance wise if they were declared a piece of equipment by the Motor Vehicle Division the liability insurance on them would come down. But they are considered an unlicensed truck and the insurance is according to that.

Mr. Hickey inquired if there was different rate of insurance for a piece of farm equipment vs a truck. Mr. Jacobsen stated that this depended on what it is used for. He stated that in his case the insurance was much higher for his trucks.

Mr. Getto stated that if it was considered a farm equipment it is covered under the liability policy. This would be like a tractor.

Ira Kent, Cattlemen's Association, stated that he felt much of the problems that exist are the result of federal legislation that the State must comply with. He cited OSHA, BLM and examples of this. He stated that the feds set these standards and the state has to go along with them.

Mr. Jacobsen asked Mr. Kent how felt about having a member of the public on the various boards and commission around the state. Mr. Kent stated that he felt everyone that sat on a board in some way represented the public. He stated that he felt that expertise in the various fields that the board control is very necessary and that he would personally feel that they should leave it the way it is.

Bill Washburn stated that he was happy to see the mandatory NIC for farm labor killed. He stated that he would really like to know about the 208 program and how it would effect this particular county.

Mr. Serpa stated that they have discussed this 208 in the small county caucus and they have decided this session to just "sit on it" and in the interim come up with something. There seems to be no problem sitting on it this time but the federal government is leaning pretty heavily and it will be necessary to have something before the next session. Along with the 208 there are some problems with the Walker Lake pollution and so you have county against county and this is bad.

Mr. Kent urged those present to involve themselves in this because they must comply by November 1978. He stated that the law that does come out as final should be as the result of input from those concerned.

Bill Washburn stated that he had been involved with 208 and they had seen a film and discovered that what may apply back east does not apply here in Nevada.

Mrs. Washburn stated that she was concerned over what was probably a community problem and that was with the State Highway Department. They would like to get a signal light for the protection of the students at their school. She stated that they have asked for a light there but the highway department says there would be too much of a hang up to put a light there. This is on highway 95 and 50.

Mr. Serpa stated that nobody from the community had ever contact him and he was mildly disappointed. Mrs. Serpa stated that she drives a school bus and would agree there was a need for this light.

Dale Lawrence stated that he too was concerned about 208 especially as they concern irrigation and drainage. He cited that most of this runs off their land into a sink and evaporates.

Elbert Mills stated that he was interested primarily with AB 152 regarding dairy commission legislation. He stated that he was very much in favor of retaining the Commission. He added that he felt it was important in order to keep a stable condition within the dairy industry. He stated that he was representing All-Jersey. He added that he would like to see some protection in Nevada from California surplus milk and feels this is one of the great purposes for the Dairy Commission. The Commission in the past has added a great deal of stability for the industry. He stated that he needs to have this security and cited the situation of borrowing money.

Mr. Hickey then asked for comments from the legislators present. Mr. Serpa spoke on AB183 and cited the benefits that this area would derive from it. This bill would get a federal grader into the area. He stated that he felt this program would eventually be self supporting, possibly within 2 or 3 years.

Mr. Jacobsen spoke on the bill dealing with changing the boards and commissions. He stated that there were many boards that were to be eliminated and others that were to be changed. He inquired if the group had feelings on any particular board. He added that the Jr. Livestock Show Board had just been put back into the bill. Mr. Kent stated that he felt that the Predator Control Board was important to retain. He stated that there were problems with predators and that he felt that this was not the proper time to eliminate this board.

Mr. Jacobsen pointed out that if these boards and commissions that are listed are eliminated it would eliminate 18 appointees from this area. He added that he felt this should be of concern to the rural areas as this is one way to keep representation from this area.

Mr. Jacobsen also inquired whether those present could see any merit to AB 152 which deals with the Dairy Commission. Mr. Mills stated that they have studied it and are familiar with the bill and they would definitely want to go with this bill. They were somewhat apprehensive about who would be appointed to this three man board.

Mr. Jacobsen stated that in other meetings there has been testimony that industry should be included in the Commission and that if this is going he would have to feel that those three people would have to be on some type of independent status to react to the factions of price and cost.

Mr. Mills stated that if the industry would be represented on the board then the consumer would also have to be represented. He added that he does not necessarily feel that they need to be represented if they are allow to give their input. He also stated that he would be in favor of an advisory board made up of people in the area.

Mr. Jacobsen asked if they objected to the increase of fees. Mr. Mills stated that they realize if they are going to possibly lose the revenue from the south they will need funds from some source. The area the feel is most important is the auditing of the plants pay-off so that they get an accurate pay-off.

Mr. Rhoads gave a brief statement regarding his experience at the legislature for the first time. He spoke of number of bills that have been introduced and the fact that so many of them come from agencies and that a lot of the bill introduced have been as the result of federal legisaltion. He touched lightly on the various expenditures facing the state including the new prison, the new capital or remodeling the old, education, mental health and the general state agency requests. He stated that he felt if it wasn't for the gaming revenue increasing so much in this state the state would really have a lot of tax problems.

Mr. Rhoads spoke briefly on the inventory tax on cattle. He stated that in most states there is no inventory tax. He inquired how the people of this area would react to putting Fish and Game into the general fund. Mr. Kent stated that this would probably be good because then there would be some control over them. Mr. Getto stated that he would like to have them under partial general fund as this would take some of the pressure off the game and may bring some of the wildlife back to the area.

Mr. Price spoke briefly on the bills that have been brought before the Judiciary and Commerce Committees. He cited several that were of general interest to the public. These include bills dealing with the gaming industry, marijuana bills, laetrile and gerovital, special guardian laws, juvenile felony bills, annual sessions, malpractice, alien bills, 55 mile speed limits and the bill that would prohibit wife from forcing husband to work as a prostitute. He stated that the Judiciary Committee was a very busy committee and was presently handling about 1/3 of the total bills introduced in the session.

Mr. Polish stated that he also served of the Judiciary Committee and added that the Judiciary Committee also deals with changes in the judicial system. He stated that he also serves on a special committee dealing with tourism and economic development. He stated that they are asking in the committee that \$200,000 be made available to help the smaller counties promote package type deals. He stated that they have a report from last session that was very surprising in that most of the people that visited Ely, Austin, Eureka and that area of the state all came from Southern California. Apparently these people want to come to the small towns.

Mr. Hickey spoke on the cactus bill that the committee has heard testimony on. He also spoke briefly on the resolution presented to bring Clark County into the State.

At this point Mr. Hickey thanked the people for coming out to meet them and adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

*Sandra Gagner*

Sandra Gagner,  
Assembly Attache