

MINUTES

EDUCATION COMMITTEE
JANUARY 24, 1977
3:00 p.m.

Members Present: Chairman Vergiels
Ms. Gomes
Mr. Goodman
Mr. Horn
Mr. Kissam
Mr. Rhoads
Mr. Schofield

Guests Present: Susan Haase, Nev. Assoc. for Retarded Citizens
Bob Best, Nev. State School Boards Assoc.
John Gamble, Nev. Department of Education
Jim Costa, Nev. Department of Education
Joyce Woodhouse, Nevada State Ed. Assoc.
Robert Rose, Nevada State Ed. Assoc.
Margie Kissam
Al Wittenberg

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Vergiels at 3:00 p.m. He announced the agenda for Monday, January 31, as a hearing on AB 106, 107, 108 and 111 and the agenda for Wednesday, February 2, as a hearing on AB 105 and 109. He announced that the committee would hear from four fellow legislators at the present meeting.

The first speaker was Mr. Hickey of District 18. He said students in his district score very low on achievement tests and he and many parents are concerned. Administrators tell him it may be due to the low socio-economic area and/or the quality of the teachers. Teachers tell him there is a problem of communication because of the size of the district (86,000, making it one of the largest in the country).

Mr. Schofield was excused to attend another meeting and the committee recessed at 3:19 to await the arrival of the second speaker.

At 3:20 Mr. Mann arrived and the committee reconvened. Mr. Mann, a high school teacher as well as legislator, spoke on behalf of his proposed "back to basics" bill requiring a certain proficiency in reading, writing and math for high school graduates and accountability on the part of teachers.

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Senator Bryan spoke as a parent, taxpayer, legislator and concerned citizen, saying that education hasn't met the high standards society has a right to expect from it. He said standards have been too diluted and questioned whether it might be due to the student/teacher ratio, discipline problems and/or inadequate standards. He suggested that, although there have been enough studies, perhaps education in Nevada should be reviewed and action taken to produce a functionally literate society.

Mr. Jeffrey has a bill which he explained to the committee as allowing school districts to adjust the lower age limit for entry into the public school system to accommodate those normal children who have had extensive pre-school training and would merely repeat the academic work in the lower grades which they have already covered.

Mr. Schofield moved that the meeting be adjourned and Mr. Goodman seconded. It was unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 4:09.

Respectfully submitted

Harriet M. Knauff

Harriet M. Knauff
Assembly Attache

