ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS COMMITTEE MARCH 23, 1977 5:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Mann

Mr. Chaney Mr. Goodman Mr. Horn Mr. Kosinski Mrs. Wagner

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Sena (excused)

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pat Gothberg, Common Cause

Joe Jackson, Nevada State Press Association

Daisy Talvitie, League of Women Voters

Assemblyman Eileen Brookman

Andy Grose, Legislative Counsel Bureau

Assemblyman Kissam

Dave Howard, Secretary of State's Office

Vaugh Smith, Carson City

A quorum being present Chairman Mann called the meeting to order. The purpose of the meeting was to hear testimony on AB 328, 312, and 410.

AB 328, Corrects statutory references to certain enumeration districts.

Mr. Mann stated that the reason his name is on this bill is that he did not have time to get a committee introduction.

Mr. Mann read into the record a letter from Andrew P. Grose, Research Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau. A copy of this letter is attached to these minutes as Exhibit A and herewith made a part of this record.

Mr. Grose stated that in 1971 when Clark County was reapportioned and when the portions of Chapter 218 were dealt with, they had complete census data but then subsequent to that the census came out with the "master enumeration list". In that list they had split three or four of the enumeration districts that were known in 1971. These splits were never reflected in the statutes and this came to light during the consolidation suit in Clark County. George Franklin felt that he had found a real awful flaw in the law and was sure that the existing assembly districts were malapportioned. This was a logical conclusion because the enumeration districts had never been corrected in the statutes. All this bill does is update 218 to conform with the final enumeration list.

Mr. Kosinski stated that in most cases like on line 12 were to take out 26 and put in 26A and B. Mr. Grose stated that they were all that way with one exception. On line 16 there is the real correction in this bill. The other ones were split into A and B by the census were in the same district, but in the case of 243E that is no where reflected in the chapter at all and there is over 1200 people in that

area. This is a geographical subdivision of 243A. In the final enumeration list there is no such district.

Mr. Chaney moved for a "do pass" on AB 328 and to place this bill on the consent calendar. Mr. Goodman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

AB 312, requires reports to county clerk or registrar of voters.

Mr. Mann stated that this bill only deals with Washoe and Clark County. Mr. Mann added that during the last election when a candidate mailed out his various information he received much of it back marked "addressee unknown". The voter registration is only cleaned up once every four years. So this bill was requested and in very general language it would allow the county clerk to use any reliable means to correct these lists every two years. There would be no cost as this information is done by the computer. Mr. Mann stated that Mr. Moore feels that they try to do this as much as possible now and this would mandate that they do.

Mr. Kosinski inquired of Mr. Howard if when he was Registrar of Voters in Washoe County was he purging the lists between elections. Mr. Howard stated that he was and that with every general election there was purge required by law. This is every two years. However this is only a clean up of those people who failed to vote.

Mr. Mann stated that in Clark County it is only done every four years as they interpret general election to be the one that is held every four years. Mr. Howard stated that this is incorrect.

Mr. Mann stated that this bill would also clean up those people who have moved.

Mr. Chaney stated that most people who move would not notify the registrar right away. Mr. Mann stated that they found that many people were living in one precinct and voting in another because they did not want to bother changing their address.

Mr. Chaney questioned how the registrar would know if they have moved if the person kept voting in old precinct and did not tell the registrar they had moved.

Mr. Mann stated that he was not sure that they even needed this bill. Mr. Howard stated that this won't cure anything as far as cleaning up the lists is concerned. He stated that because of the mobile environment that we have in Nevada they have learned to live with a 10% bad registration factor.

Mr. Howard stated that in checking across the country they find that this is not unreasonable. It is impossible to get everyone to change their address unless you make it mandatory with a penalty.

Mr. Goodman moved for "indefinite postponement" of AB 312 and Mr. Horn seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

AB 410, Revises provisions relating to reporting of election campaign contributions and expenses.

Mr. Mann entered into the record a copy of the letter of March 15, 1977 from the District Attorney's office in Clark County. This is attached as Exhibit B and herewith made a part of this record.

Assemblyman Brookman spoke in support of AB410 She also presented a letter from the District Attorney's office in Clark County. This is attached to these minutes as Exhibit C and herewith made a part of this record.

Mrs. Brookman stated that there were many people that filed for office last election period that didn't even report. There were 499 candidates in the State and most of them saw fit to report. When it came time for the District Attorney to prosecute they said that they didn't really know what a candidate was and there were no laws in the books to cover this.

At this point Mr. Mann read <u>Exhibit B</u> which shows that candidate will be defined. He added that the voter registrar in the Clark County was against having this responsibility and does not really want to handle these reports.

Mrs. Brookman stated that she was quite shocked to discover that the D.A. did not really realize what a candidate meant. She added that some candidates are "literally getting away with murder". Everyone takes the same oath when they file their candidacy. She urged this committee to do pass this bill as it will take care of the injustices that were done last time.

Mr. Mann stated that Stan Colton felt he would need an additional staff member to handle it. He said that he felt that the whole point of the legislation is to have it available for the public to see.

Mrs. Wagner stated that she would question whether there would be a need for an additional member as this type of work would have only two real peak periods.

Mr. Mann added that he felt if they were not going to do something like this they they should repeal the whole statute.

Mr. Kosinski stated this would also add a civil penalty as well as the gross misdemeanor. Mr. Mann stated that they came up with this as a way to enforce this. At the present time it is almost impossible to prove willful intent not to file. They feel that is would give the law new meaning.

Mrs. Brookman stated that she supports anything that makes it strong enough so that the person feels it is their duty to file.

Mr. Kosinski stated he was concerned that the added provision may result in the District Attorneys going after the civil penalty rather the more difficulty to obtain criminal when it was appropriate.

Mr. Horn stated that he feels this important legislation and that the loss of the money is an important factor that the penalty should be stiffened and would suggest they change from \$100 to at least \$250.

Mr. Mann stated that he felt it would be easier to get this bill through with the \$100. Mrs. Brookman agreed that this would be the more realistic approach at this time.

Mrs. Wagner stated that in Washoe County the District Attorney mailed to the various candidates letters explaining exactly who had to file and when. This would make it diffcult to believe that someone could be ignorant of what was expected of them.

Daisy Talvitie, President, League of Women Voters, spoke in favor of this bill. She stated that the League endorses AB 410, even though they would prefer to have some requirements for pre-filing included. They particularly endorse the filing of reports at the local office. Their only questions relate to whether or not the place of reporting should always be the county clerk. It seems to them that it would be better if the filing of reports were made at the same place of filing of candidacy. They also recommend on line 12, page 2, lowering the figure to \$250.

Mr. Horn inquired how they would feel about the \$250 instead of \$100 fine. Mrs. Talvitie stated that they do feel there should be a sufficient penalty but on this specific thing she could not answer for her organization. She added that they would something that "would fly" and that she would agree that the D.A. is obviously going to take the way that will bring the best results.

Mrs. Talvitie stated that she felt that it was very important to a definition included in the law for the courts.

Mr. Kosinski stated that he was not really concerned about the person who was not a serious candidate. The problem is the like the one that opposed Mrs. Brookman.

Mr. Kosinski stated that an attempt to address the willfulness could be accomplished by requiring that when the filing of candidacy was made the person had to sign a form acknowledging receipt of the material.

Mrs. Wagner stated that on another bill the Secretary of State did present some language that address the problem of where to file, and suggested that it be the place of filing of declaration of candidacy.

Mr. Mann stated that there really is no problem with this as the County Clerk is included in language they have.

Mr. Howard stated that this is included in NRS 224.164 and that these offices work together. A copy of this NRS section is attached to these minutes as Exhibit D and herewith made a part of this record.

A general discussion ensued on this subject. Some of the members felt it was confusing while others felt if the candidate could notfind the correct office, he shouldn't be running for office.

Pat Gothberg, Common Cause, spoke in favor of AB 410. A copy of her statement is attached as Exhibit E and herewith made a part of this record.

Joe Jackson, Nevada State Press Association, spoke in favor of AB 410. He stated that the press has finally found something to approve of. They were somewhat disappointed that the bill did not include things like the retaining the campaign expense limits and retaining newspaper requirement to have authorization in writing and to keep separate files of candidates campaign spendings. This is pretty well taken care of in AB 159.

Dave Howard stated that he had a few comments about the definition. There are some things that should be said about it. Section 2, subsection 3 presented him with difficulty in that every little candidate in the State would be covered. This would include such as things as running for the TV district in Verdi.

Mr. Mann stated that he felt that it was the intent to cover all, these are becoming very political. He stated that he felt that if someone is elected to a position that person should meet the same qualifications as anybody else.

Mr. Howard stated that the extra position would probably very definitely be needed but could be a part time position. He added that the Secretary of State made the suggestion that these reports be filed locally to be available to the public and the press and they do feel that this is important. Mr. Howard stated that they did have every candidate sign an acknowledgement of receipt of the information.

Kosinski inquired whether section 2, subsection would bring in candidates who were not required in the past to file and the examples cited sounded like district officers and district is existing language. Mr. Howard stated that the Secretary of State's office had gotten an opinion from the Attorney General that district in fact meant all of these peripheral units of each county. This was after of fact. Many county clerks gave advisory opinions to the soil conservation people and other boards that they did not. They probably were required.

Mr. Kosinski inquired whether there was any other way to appear on a ballot other then those cited in the bill. Mr. Howard stated that there was not other then in regards to soil conservation districts where they are voted on at a large meeting. Under this condition people have been on the ballot who did not attend and did not know their name was on that ballot.

Mr. Mann stated that he did not feel that the intent was to include this kind of mass meeting. This will be clarified when they discuss the bill on the floor.

Mrs. Wagner inquired whether Mr. Howard felt more acceptable to include just one and two under this section. Mr. Mann stated that he feels that if name actually appears on the ballot and a person does not through the process to have it removed they should be included.

Mrs. Wagner stated that they would be deemed a candidate anyway because he filed an acceptance of candidacy. Mr. Howard stated that he could see that there may be some questions on this later.

Mr. Mann asked Mr. Howard in his expert opinion if #3 would be taken from the bill would it weaken the definition of who a candidate is. Mr. Howard stated that he would rather not answer that at this time.

Vaugh Smith, Carson City Voter Registrar, stated that he would like to see the bill go as it is. He stated that he thinks that #3 is good. If the state should get write in candidates this would cover them. Mr. Smith stated that if that aspect of voting were to come (and he is not advocating it) there would have to be some type of registration of candidate and that person would know about it. This would be the only way that you could control the count or register the count.

Mr. Mann stated that under the present decision of the Attorney General what appears as #3 is not more than the definition of district.

Mr. Howard suggested that perhaps in line 3 instead of saying at any election include the various elections such as primary, general, special or municipal elections. This would surely get the major candidates of the state.

Mr. Kosinski inquired rather if they just included #1 and #2 would the general improvements districts be included. Mr. Howard stated that they would not. Mr. Kosinski stated that he would want to included these districts.

Mr. Mann then asked for any amendments that the committee would like to see on this bill.

Mr. Kosinski stated that he would like to see something in the bill that would require the registrar to have candidate file a statement of their awareness of the disclosure law. Mr. Mann stated that he felt this was not necessary.

Mr. Kosinski that he would make this a motion and Mr. Horn seconded it.

Mrs. Wagner amended Mr. Kosinski motion to add that the rules and regulations in pamphlet form also be required to be given to each candidate. Mr. Horn seconded this motion.

Mr. Chaney stated that he felt that although it was good to take into consideration the registrar it is more important to consider what is best for the voter. The amended motion passed unanimously.

The original motion then passed unanimously.

Mrs. Wagner then made a motion that the committee use the language as prepared by the Secretary of State for a previous bill. This would change the wording on page 2, line 4 and page 2, line 33. It would be the officer with

whom he filed his declaration of candidacy; certificate of candidacy or acceptance of candidacy. Mr. Kosinksi amended the motion to delete the term "certificate of candidacy". Mr. Goodman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Goodman moved the committee give AB 410 a recommendation of "do pass as amended" and Mr. Kosinski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Gagnier Assembly Attache

59TH NEVADA LEGISLATURE

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE LEGISLATIVE ACTION

DATE March	23, 1977					
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59TH NEVADA LEGISLATURE

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE LEGISLATIVE ACTION

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59TH NEVADA LEGISLATURE

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE LEGISLATIVE ACTION

DATE Mar	ch 23,	1977					
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Date

STATE OF NEVADA LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU

LEGISLATIVE BUILDING CAPITOL COMPLEX CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89710

> ARTHUR J. PALMER, Director (702) 885-5627



Arthur J. Palmer, Director, Secretary

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INTERIM FINANCE COMMITTEE (702) 885-5640

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DONALD R. MELLO, Assemblyman, Chairman Ronald W. Sparks, Senate Fiscal Analyst John F. Dolan, Assembly Fiscal Analyst

FRANK W. DAYKIN, Legislative Counsel (702) 885-5627 EARL T. OLIVER, Legislative Auditor (702) 885-5620 ANDREW P. GROSE, Research Director (702) 885-5637

February 21, 1977

<u>M E M O R A N D U M</u>

TO:

Assemblyman Lloyd W. Mann

FROM:

Andrew P. Grose, Research Director

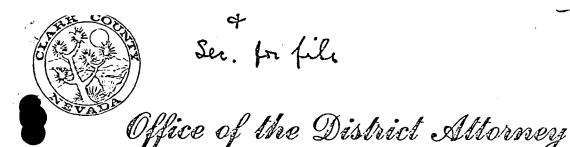
SUBJECT: BDR 17-1363

You have received, or will receive shortly, the referenced BDR. I am the person who requested it and it requires a bit of explanation.

The legislature in 1971 did not have the final Census data. They had accurate counts but in a number of cases, the Census subsequently redesignated certain areas. These redesignations caused confusion during the Clark County consolidation litigation. With a letter from the Census Bureau to back us up, Judge Wendell took judicial notice of the changed enumeration district designations.

The intent of this BDR is to update the enumeration district designations in the NRS to preclude future confusion such as arose during the litigation mentioned.

APG/jd



CLARK COUNTY COURTHOUSE LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89101 (702) 386-4011

March 15, 1977

Assemblyman Lloyd Mann, Chairman Assembly Elections Committee Nevada Legislature Carson City, Nevada 89710

Re: Assembly Bill 410

Dear Lloyd:

As you are aware, this bill is designed to correct many deficiencies in the present campaign expense and contribution reporting law. Some of the provisions were arrived at through consultation with Larry Hicks, District Attorney of Washoe County, and Don Klassic, Deputy Attorney General.

Passage of this bill will bring about needed clarity and will greatly further the aim of the original act.

First, section 2 by defining "candidate" will specifically spell out who must file -- and will now specifically include those without a primary election.

Second, section 3 will make clear that <u>all</u> persons must file, regardless of whether or not they received <u>campaign</u> contributions or had campaign expenses. Thus, regardless of the outcome of litigation over the present act, the legislature will have clarified the act for the future.

Sections 4 and 5 of the act will widen the application of the act. Now, for the first time, the reporting provisions will apply to recall and special elections. More importantly, the place of filing will be changed so that most filings will now be in the Office of the County Clerk. By this change, the excuse of "delayed in the mail" will be substantially eliminated and, even more importantly, the news media will have rapid and unfettered access to the reports. No longer will they be required to send a reporter to Carson City for most reports. At the same time, the supervisory and policing duties of the Secretary of State will be retained by simply having

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DISTRICT ATTORNEY

THOMAS D. BEATTY
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

JAMES BARTLEY
COUNTY COUNSEL

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RAYMOND D. JEFFERS

MELVYN T. HARMON

DAN M. SEATON

LAWRENCE R. LEAVITT

H. LEON SIMON

JOEL M. COOPER

JOE PARKER CHIEF INVESTIGATOR

KELLY W. ISOM ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER Assemblyman Lloyd Mann, Chairman Assembly Elections Committee March 15, 1977 Page Two

the County Clerk forward one copy to him. Thus, he will still be able to notify the appropriate prosecuting agency should reports fail to be filed. The County Clerk, other than having to file the report and send one copy to the Secretary of State, will have no additional duties.

Note also the fact that sections 4 and 5 add an additional penalty for those who fail to file on time. That penalty is in the nature of a civil forfeiture of \$100 per day of delay. The criminal penalty will remain in force for violations of a willful nature but any delay will now cost the candidate \$100 per day. Several prosecutors have indicated their feelings that such a provision will do several things: (1) it will result in almost all reports being filed on time; (2) it will provide a penalty, civil in nature, for all cases in which there has been a delay but where criminal intent cannot be proven; and, (3) it will further demonstrate the seriousness with which the legislature regards the failure to file these reports.

In short, I believe that the bill will provide meaningful amendments and carry out more fully the intent of the original act.

I would add but one technical note. As you know, NRS 293.092 defines County Clerk to mean "registrar of voters" in large counties. That definition will not apply to this section since 293.092 by its terms applies only to NRS Chapter 293 and, in any event, NRS 293A020 defines "Clerk" to mean "County Clerk" for all purposes in NRS Chapter 293A.

Sincerely,

Thomas D. Beatty

Assistant District Attorney

TDB/ch

Office of the District Attorney

CLARK COUNTY COURTHOUSE LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89101 (702) 386-4011

March 17, 1977

Assemblyman Eileen Brockman Assembly Judiciary Committee Nevada Legislature Carson City, Nevada exhibit C

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KELLY W. ISOM
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Re: State v. Lawrence Arvey

Dear Eileen:

You may be interested to know that following the reversal for lack of jurisdiction of the original case against the above named defendant, the defendant again petitioned for a habeas corpus relief as to both counts of the grand jury indictment.

As you may recall, count 1 charged him with Failure to File Contribution Reports and count 2 charged Failure to File Expense Reports.

I personally argued that writ and on Monday, March 14, the District Judge again discharged the defendant as to count 1 but ordered him to trial as to count 2.

I am sure that following this decision we will have a definitive Nevada Supreme Court Decision telling us what if any defects we have in this statute and if, as we maintained, there are no major problems barring prosecution, we can proceed to take these cases to trial.

Very trally yours,

Thomas D. Beatty

Assistant District Attorney

TDB/ch

4. For any offense relating to the violation or willful disregard of such duties or trusts of office as may be specified by the respective boards of county commissioners, all coroners holding office by appointment pursuant to this section shall be subject to such fines and criminal penalties, including misdemeanor penalties and removal from office by indictment, accusation or otherwise, as shall be prescribed by the aforesaid ordinance. This subsection shall apply to all deputies, agents, employees and other persons employed by or exercising the powers and functions of the

(Added to NRS by 1963, 197; A 1965, 1274; 1969, 665; 1973, 899)

244.164 Registrar of voters: Creation of office; appointment, qualifi-

cations, duties.

1. In each county having a population of 100,000 or more, as determined by the last preceding national census of the Bureau of the Census of the United States Department of Commerce, the board of county commissioners shall have the power to create the office of registrar of voters,

244.165

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

to prescribe the qualifications, duties and compensation of such office

and to make appointments to such office.

2. The registrar of voters, upon appointment as provided in subsection 1, shall assume all of the powers and duties heretofore vested in and imposed upon the county clerk of such county with respect to elections, except the duties imposed by virtue of NRS 293.393 to make out and deliver certificates of election.

(Added to NRS by 1965, 669; A 1969, 1533; 1973, 1079)

244.165 Prosecution, defense of suits. The boards of county commissioners shall have power and jurisdiction in their respective counties to control the prosecution or defense of all suits to which the county is a party.

[Part 8:80:1865; A 1871, 47; 1931, 52; 1933, 203; 1953, 681]

244.170 Rewards for defaulting, absconding county or township officers. The boards of county commissioners shall have power and jurisdiction in their respective counties to offer and allow rewards for the apprehension or conviction of defaulting or absconding county or township officers.

[Part 8:80:1865; A 1871, 47; 1931, 52; 1933, 203; 1953, 681]

244.175 Rewards for apprehension of murderers.

- 1. When it shall come to the personal knowledge of the county commissioners, or a majority thereof, of any of the counties in this state, that the crime of murder has been committed in the county, or whenever one or more of the residents of the county shall state in writing and under oath that such crime has been committed in the county, and that to the best of their knowledge and belief the person or persons, whether known or unknown, committing the crime have not, at the time of making such statement, been apprehended or taken into custody, and the board, from such statement or other evidence, believes that a murder has been committed, and that the offering of a reward would tend to cause the arrest of the perpetrator or perpetrators of the crime, the board of county commissioners, or a majority thereof, is authorized to offer a reward for the arrest and safe delivery of such criminal or criminals to the proper officers.
- 2. In no case shall a reward be offered, as provided in this section, for more than \$500 in each case, and such offer shall expire so soon as the board of county commissioners offering the reward shall make an order to that effect, which it is authorized and empowered to do at any general session or at a special session convened without notice, and shall cause the same to be entered in the minutes of proceedings.

3. No reward shall be offered as herein authorized until after an order shall have been made by the board and entered in the minutes of proceedings, reciting the name of the person or persons murdered, and the amount of the reward offered, and the order shall have been approved



March 23, 1977

Testimony before the Assembly Elections Committee

Re: AB 410

by: Pat Gothberg, CC / Nevada

Common Cause supports AB 410 as being at least a step in the right direction in the area of campaign reform. We still have a long way to go as long as the information is available to the public after elections have already taken place. However, this belated information is now only available through the Secretary of State. AB 410 helps to bring the information closer to the public most readily affected.

We are also pleased to see both the addition of recall and special elections and also a \$100.00 per day fine for failure to file reports. The changes proposed would strengthen the present law, and Common Cause urges your do pass recommendation of AB 410.