

ASSEMBLY HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Friday, April 29, 1977

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Chaney, Mr. Bennett,
Mr. Kissam, Mrs. Gomes,
Mr. Dreyer, Mr. Robinson,
Mr. Weise

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Schofield - excused
Mr. Ross - excused

GUESTS: Mike Dunn, Division of Vital Statistics
E. H. Fitz, representing himself
Barbara Guzman, Health Planning & Resources
Ed Dannan, Legislative Counsel Bureau

Chairman Chaney called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. He asked for testimony on AB 727 which requires permits for transportation of cremated human remains and prohibits dispersal of such remains within the state. Mr. Dreyer said that the bill was a result of an occurrence where cremated remains from California were scattered on Nevada. The bill would now require a permit for this to be done. Mr. Kissam asked if California had such a requirement. Mr. Dreyer stated that he wasn't sure. Mr. Bennett felt that California has a law prohibiting remains to be dropped over the state which is the reason they have been scattered over Nevada.

Mrs. Gomes asked if this would prohibit people from designating that their remains be scattered over a particular area and if it just applies to remains being dropped from the air. Mr. Chaney pointed out that a permit would be required.

Mike Dunn from Vital Statistics reminded the committee that the subject of AB 727 had been briefly touched upon when AB 143 was discussed earlier in the session. AB 143 removed the requirement that a casket be required for cremation. Mr. Chaney said that this bill has already been signed by the Governor. Mr. Dunn expressed his opposition to AB 727 on the basis that it would place a "horrendous" hardship on local governments in paper work since transit permits are required whenever remains are transported from place to place. He said that he had received calls from consumers in opposition to the measure and that in polling funeral directors he found that they also were in opposition to it. He thought it was legal to drop ashes from an altitude of over 30,000 feet because technically this is not over Nevada.

Mr. Dreyer, in response to Mr. Kissam's question, stated that the bill was introduced by the committee after the 40th day and was not personally requested by him.

Mr. Fitz, a resident of Nevada since 1947, stated his opposition to the bill on the basis that it deprives him of his personal liberties and removes his freedom of choice. He stated that there is only 3% of the area of the state that is inhabited and ashes

scattered in the remaining areas would do no damage physically or ecologically. He said that there is no Federal law prohibiting the scattering of ashes on Federal lands and it would be presumptuous of Nevada to prohibit the practice. He felt that there was a special interest element in the bill for businesses connected with the storage and deposit of remains. "There is nothing in the bill that will contribute to the general welfare," he concluded.

Mr. Dunn mentioned the fact that if all the residents of Nevada were cremated, their ashes would only fill half the hole dug for the lake at the MGM Hotel in Reno.

Chairman Chaney called upon Mr. Dreyer to discuss AB 681, a bill which adds licensing and regulation of administrators of intermediate care facilities to duties of Nevada state board of examiners for skilled nursing facilities. Mr. Dreyer said that the bill was a result of the interim study conducted on the aged when it was learned that intermediate care facilities were not under the control of the state board of examiners though the skilled nursing facilities were. To Mr. Robinson's question, Mr. Dreyer stated that there is no fee for licensure and that this category of care facilities should have been included all along.

Mrs. Gomes explained ACR 43 which urges that welfare recipients and persons with low incomes be employed on public works projects and that sex discrimination be banned on such projects. She said the purpose of the resolution was to both encourage low income and welfare persons to obtain employment that had a higher earning potential and recognize the use of womanpower for this type of work. She said the resolution would give priority to these two categories of potential employees and the provision would be contained in the contract with the general contractor and/or unions.

Mr. Chaney said though he is extremely interested in seeing that people of low income and welfare recipients receive all the aid that is possible in obtaining well-paying jobs, he didn't feel that they would be qualified to handle the jobs required on public works projects for lack of proper training. Mrs. Gomes pointed out that during World War II women quickly learned how to perform jobs required in defense plants. She also said that 20% to 30% of the people who will be hired for the construction in Jean will be trained for the job.

Mr. Kissam expressed his feeling that this resolution is a step in the right direction to help relieve the welfare rolls. Mr. Dreyer felt that if the jobs are available, people on welfare should get out and apply for them and the unions would benefit also. Mr. Chaney expressed his concern about the manner in which people on welfare are referred to jobs for which they have no training.

Mr. Dreyer pointed out that it was the "take-home" pay which really matters; how after paying union dues and buying uniforms, many people end up with less money than they would if they remained on welfare. Mrs. Gomes pointed out that less than 2% of public works jobs are given to women. By this resolution, at least women will be recognized as a part of this work force. She also said that 12% of those unemployed are women, whereas only 8% are men and that there are very few prospects for women to work up to the \$25,000 per year jobs.

Mr. Robinson pointed out that there are just so many jobs available, and though this doesn't mandate training for skilled jobs, by placing inexperienced people on these jobs, it could take jobs away from others who would then fall back on welfare provisions. He said the only solution to a limited job market are programs like WPA and CCC. He said training programs are what should be supported.

Mrs. Gomes said that welfare recipients are never going to be the first people to get into the higher paying job market. She said this market should not just be available to men or union members.

Mr. Robinson asked Mrs. Gomes if the Federal Fair Employment Practices Act doesn't prohibit discrimination. Mrs. Gomes said that it does, but that she knew of only three women who are Teamster members and working in Battle Mountain. Mr. Chaney said that he knew of many women in Clark County working on public works projects. Mr. Weise felt that given the opportunity, many inexperienced people can do a very creditable job in a field in which they have no prior background.

Mr. Chaney asked Mrs. Gomes if these people would be in addition to others being employed on a job or would they be substituted for others. Mrs. Gomes answered by saying that the State would be apprised of the available jobs and low income people would be channelled in to apply for them. She said this is being done in New York very successfully. She said that at the present time, there is no inclination on the part of Nevada to encourage low income people to enter into this field of employment.

Mr. Weise explained that the Public Works Board would provide for these people in the contract with the builder; that an affirmative action recruitment program would be included for low income people in the contract.

Mr. Weise moved to pass SJR 22, SJR 24 and ACR 43; Mrs. Gomes seconded the motion. Chairman Chaney stated that he would hold the bills for vote before the full committee.

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The Chairman explained the amendments placed on AB 314 by the Senate. The bill proscribes certain actions involving federal food stamps. The committee concurred in the changes.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,

PHYLLIS BERKSON, Secretary