MINUTES

LABOR AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE JANUARY 25, 1977 3:00 p.m.

Members Present: Chairman Banner Mr. Goodman Mrs. Gomes Mr. Bennett Mr. Robinson Mr. Weise Mr. Dreyer

Guests Present: See attached Exhibits "A" and "B"

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Banner at 3:12 p.m. Mr. Robinson moved that the order of hearing of the bills be changed to A.B. 20 first, then A.B. 14 and A.B. 19. Upon second by Mr. Weise, the motion passes unanimously.

ASSEMBLY BILL 20

Chairman Banner, who sponsored this bill, called on Commissioner Claude Evans of the Nevada Industrial Commission, who testified in opposition to A.B. 20 on the grounds that it would repeal NRS 616.415 which provides for Ex-medical accounts. He defined Ex-medical accounts as those in which the employer furnishes the accident benefits: medical, surgical, hospital, or other treatment, nursing, medicine, medical and surgical supplies, crutches, artificial limbs, etc. However, he stated there are two main problems with the present (1) it does not provide for a bond on the part of the statute: employers under the Ex-medical program, which could be a problem if the employer goes out of business and an employee later needs additional care. (2) NRS 616.415 conflicts somewhat with a section of law that gives the claimant the right to accept a free choice of physicians. An Ex-medical employer usually has a full-time company doctor and sometimes a hospital under contract. The company wants the injured employee to go to its own doctor which sometimes results in a conflict which the NIC must resolve. Also, there have been interpretations that the Ex-medical employer has the right to direct the medical care of the employee.

Commissioner Evans stated that Ex-medical employers are under the same requirements as other employers but don't pay premiums to NIC for accident benefits. There are 15 Ex-medical employers now existing, as listed on the attached <u>Exhibit "C"</u>. There has never been a problem with non-payment by any of these, but Commissioner Evans feels there should be a bond to eliminate any future problems.

Assembly

Commissioner Evans read an August 10, 1960, NIC interoffice memorandum from former Commissioner Hutchings, opposing Ex-medical contracts without the posting of a bond, and stating that the program was enacted solely for the assistance of remote areas which had to furnish hospital and medical care and that it did not apply to everyone who should make application for it.

Chairman Banner stated that the present statute does not really explain the duties of the Ex-medical employers, and they do not always report properly. Commissioner Evans explained that the reporting situation is better today then some years back, and that the problem had been alleviated to a great extent.

Glen C. Taylor, Manager of Basic Management, Inc., representing the BMI Industrial Complex, testified in opposition to the repeal of the Ex-medical program as outlined in the attached copy of his notes, marked <u>Exhibit "D</u>". He agreed that a bond for Ex-medical employers was a possibility but that at some time the employer should be able to get his money back if he ceases operation. He stated there had been no complaints so why repeal the statute. However, he noted there is no requirement in the statutes relating to eligibility to be an Ex-medical employer. An employer simply makes application and it is NIC's option to approve or deny.

Ralph N. Orgill, of Kennecott Copper Corp., testified in opposition to <u>A.B. 20</u> based on the fact that Ex-medical employers can insure their employees with private insurance companies cheaper than the NIC can provide coverage; also the program allows them more direct involvement with their employees and the workmen's compensation program. He suggested specific problems be attacked rather than elimination of the Ex-medical program.

Assemblyman John Jeffrey testified on behalf of <u>A.B. 20</u>, to the effect that changes are necessary to protect injured workmen. One problem is that employers direct the medical treatment and a company doctor would be more concerned about costs than patient care. Also, most workmen aren't aware of their rights under the law. Mr. Jeffrey stated NIC should be made more aware of what happens with Ex-medical accounts and record keeping should be improved. He also stated the program should be administered by a neutral party, rather than the employer.

Chairman Banner explained that he was always opposed to the concept of Ex-medical; that he resents the company doctor and company store type services and wants the NIC to direct medical care. He doesn't feel the program is being administered the way the law was written; the present law permits abuses in the program. The workman has the right to go to his own doctor but is not always made aware of this. Mr. Weise suggested that perhaps the problem is one of information rather than with the law itself. Mr. Robinson suggested that both the employer and the unions should be working on the problem of getting information to employees.

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Pat Bacon, Capitol Furnace Co., testified in opposition to <u>A.B. 20</u> because the State cannot match the coverage and the lower cost of private insurance companies. He does not feel employers should be forced to take NIC coverage. He suggested the Committee look into why the State cannot provide cheaper coverage.

John Reiser, Chairman of NIC, testified that in the past there had been problems with reporting, but now the NIC was moving toward complete review of all Ex-medical accounts and lost time claims. However, he agreed amendments were probably necessary to clear up the statute dealing with Ex-medical program.

Chairman Banner appointed Mrs. Gomes as a committee of one to work with Mr. Reiser, Mr. Taylor and Mr. Robert Petroni, of Southern Nevada Memorial Hospital, to propose amendments to <u>A.B. 20</u> in light of the previous testimony. This was agreed upon by the Committee.

ASSEMBLY BILL 14

Mr. Robinson, the sponsor of this bill, explained that it was brought about by an editorial by Jack McCloskey regarding cash deposits to the NIC. He did not feel the NIC needs to be sitting on large cash amounts deposited by employers; it should have to pay interest on these cash deposits. Employers should get a return on their money being held or the NIC should lessen the requirements.

Mr. Weise asked whether there was a Fiscal Note on the bill and how much it would cost. Mr. Reiser of the NIC distributed Fiscal Notes for A.B. 14, 19 and 20, which are attached hereto as Exhibits "E", "F" and "G". Mr. Reiser then asked the Committee to consider the alternative of Senate Bill 5 rather than A.B. 14. S.B. 5 deals with the same type of problem and allows the employer to use a time deposit in a commercial bank to achieve the same result. The statute presently authorizes certain alternatives to the cash deposit, such as bonds, savings certificates from savings The NIC does not think it should be in the commercial and loans. banking or savings and loan businesses or competing with these institutions. A better approach, according to Mr. Reiser, would be S.B. 5, allowing employers to deposit in these institutions rather than with the NIC. Mr. Reiser mentioned another problem he sees with A.B. 14, in that it does not indicate how interest would be credited: annually, quarterly, compounded, etc.

Mr. Robinson suggested making his bill apply only to deposits over a certain figure, as his concern is with the larger amounts deposited. He asked if there was a breakdown on the number of deposits in the various increments. Mr. Reiser said there is not that type of breakdown, but submitted an Interoffice Memorandum, dated January 24, 1977, showing the number of accounts with bonds, securities and cash deposits as of December 31, 1976, attached hereto as <u>Exhibit "H</u>".

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Bill Gibbens, of the Gibbens Co., testified in favor of <u>A.B. 14</u> because, making the NIC pay interest on cash deposits would encourage them to reduce the amounts they require to be deposited, based on the employer's experience.

Mr. Weise referred to the Fiscal Note and questioned the large costs involved in administering the bill, such as added personnel to keep track of this.

ASSEMBLY BILL 19

Chairman Banner, who had sponsored the bill, gave some background information on the creation of the original NIC Appeals Officer position. He then stated there is a need for an additional officer because of the workload. The Appeals Officer needs to be an attorney because he has to write his decisions, which must be legally correct. Also included in the bill is a salary increase for the position, commensurate with the job.

Richard Bortolin, Appeals Officer, NIC, who testified on behalf of <u>A.B. 19</u>, explained the appeals process. The first step is a hearing before the Commissioners. If they sustain the decision of the Claims Department, the claimant can appeal to the Appeals Officer. He makes it clear to each claimant that they have the right to be represented by counsel. If the claimant is dissatisfied with his decision, he can take just the record up to the District Court level for review of what was done before the Appeals Officer; he cannot bring in any new evidence.

Since the creation of his position and up to December 9, 1976, Mr. Bortolin had 583 cases; since then he has received 51 new appeals. Out of the 583 case, he has disposed of 433. Twelve of these were appealed to the District Court, and to his knowledge, none was reversed. Using a 5-day work week, he has decided a case every other day. He feels there is a definite need for another officer for the southern part of the state. He could settle more cases himself and would not have to work evenings and weekends to cope with the workload.

Mr. Bortolin stated the salary increase proposed in the bill is in line with salaries for administrative law judges in various parts of the country, and cited figures used by the U.S. Civil Service Commission of \$24,300 to \$39,600, and an October 15, 1976, letter from the U.S. Department of Labor of from \$28,000.00 to \$39,600.00 (See <u>Exhibits "I</u>" and "J"). He also stated he would probably quit without the salary increase.

Mr. Weise objected to the automatic 10% annual salary increase in the bill; he prefers a fixed salary.

Mr. Gibbens testified against the bill; he doesn't feel the original position was needed. He stated the Employment Security Department does not need this type of position and they have accomplished the same thing without this particular step above the commission decision. There should be a way to eliminate the position and go directly to court

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Mr. Robinson said the NIC situation is not comparable with the Employment Security Department. Rather, we should compare the number of cases taken to court now with the number prior to the creation of the position. Mr. Bortolin did not have any figures with him on this, but stated many more were taken to court prior to his position being created than the 12 that have gone to court since.

Commissioner Evans of the NIC testified that he was disturbed that the bill calls for the Appeals Officer to be an attorney. However, Chairman Banner stated that the legal training is necessary because of the decisions to be written which must stand up in court.

Mr. Weise suggested making the second position a deputy appeals officer at a lower salary.

Gayle Smooklen, Nevada Trial Lawyers Association, testified that, while that group does not agree with the concept of an appeals officer, he should be an attorney, because the primary issues are legal in nature and the secondary issues are issues of fact. His being an attorney would guarantee due process to claimants.

There being no further testimony, Chairman Banner closed the hearing and adjourned the meeting at 5:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sanden Campbell

Sandra Campbell, Assembly Attache

LABOR AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

PLEASE REGISTER IF YOU WISH TO BE RECOGNIZED

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LABOR AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

GUEST LIST (Non-Speakers)

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Mr. Chairman, my name is Glen C. Taylor, Manager of Basic Management, Inc., and I represent the BMI Industrial Complex.

Your committee is considering AB 20 which repeals the X-Medical portion under NIC.

We have several companies within the BMI Complex which have for many years been operating under the so called X-Medical.

It is industry's belief that there are many advantages under this type of coverage. Many of these benefits are to the distinct advantage of the <u>employee</u> and the State of Nevada Industrial Commission.

Direct employee benefits are:

- A trained and registered nurse is available at least 8 hours per day. The nurse can administer first aid and take care of minor injuries immediately. This is in lieu of trained first aid worker.
- 2. Regular visits to the plant by a doctor. The doctor not only takes care of minor injuries but also administers physicals as well as administering aid to those workers who may be feeling poorly because of colds, flu, etc. This is all at no cost to employees and no lost time from work.
- Doctor uses his influence to direct employees to specialist if he believes one is needed.
- 4. The injured worker is able to get back to work sooner through rehabilitation. The doctor is available for daily consultation and the employee's daily medical needs.
- Many of the employee's first aid injuries are taken care of without the necessity of the multitude of NIC forms.
- A record of all first aid cases are maintained and readily available for future reference if necessary.

EXHIBIT "D"

- Employer, physician and employee reports to NIC on all reportable accidents directly.
- The X-medical program, as operated, relieves the employer and NIC of duplication of much paper work that would otherwise be required.
- 9. The employee still has the right and privilege to be treated by his own physician in regards to any accident.
- 10. I believe that it is also the right of the staff of the NIC to deny the privilege of X-medical to any employer they find is abusing the format as outlined by the NIC.

It would thus appear that the repeal of the X-medical would certainly be a disadvantage to the employee as well as the employer who is interested in operating a safe place to work as well as efficiently aiding those injured workers, no matter how minor, at the earliest time possible.

Mr. Chairman, I am sure that some employers in the State that use X-medical do not keep the proper records nor report all reportable injuries to the NIC. It would be far better to promulgate rules and regulations whereby these employers that violate the spirit of the present law under 616.415 could be prevented from using the X-medical. In other words, don't cut the head of the baby to cure a small rash.

I do have present Mr. Grover and Mr. Blackburn who administer the X-medical for Titanium. If you have any particular questions about the operation, I would appreciate your questions be directed to them. Mr. Chairman, my name is Glen C. Taylor, Manager of Basic Management, Inc. and I represent the BMI Industrial Complex.

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There is no precedent for such a law. There is no insurance policy sold by any company on which post-coverage payment of premium is accepted. The so-called advance deposit is in fact an estimated premium to cover the operating period which will expire before the employer can determine the actual premium requirement based on his payroll. Most worker's compensation insurance policies require a minimum advance premium considerably in excess of that required by NRS 616. None pays the employer interest on that premium.

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There are 18 employers wh 516.415 which would be re Employers affected by BDF \$1,750,000 to NIC. This poyers are currently p Individual employer record of net effect of BDR 53-5 Local Government	to presently provide pealed by BDR 53-5 8 53-503 would pay would not be a net baying for accident ds of accident ber 503 can be made.	de accident benef 503. additional premi t increase in cos t benefits direct mefit expense are NO / 7	fits under the ium in the am it to the emp cly to provid e not availab ature John	ount of app loyers beca ers. le so that 	roximately use the

Signatur	e
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• LOCAL GOVERNMENT FISCAL IMPACT (Legislative Counsel Bureau Use Only)

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Date

Signature

Title

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EXHIBIT "G"

Nevada Industrial Commission Form G2U

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TO .	MR. HALEY	ACCOUNT NO
0M	IVY	CLAIM NO.
SUBJE("	ACCOUNTS WITH BONDS AND SECURITIES	DATE JANUARY 24, 1977

ACCOUNTS WITH BONDS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1976

2,885 = \$10,387,354

ACCOUNTS WITH SECURITIES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1976

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479 = 728,842

ACCOUNTS WITH CASH DEPOSITS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1976

14,693 = \$2,431,872.08

EXHIBIT "H"

HOURLY COST RATES EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 10, 1976

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REG.	ANNUAL	O/T	GS	ANNUAL	REG.	O/T	GS	ANNUAL	REG.	O/T
RATE	SALARY	RATE	GRADE	SALARY	RATE	RATE	GRADE	SALARY	RATE	RATE
2.79	5810	4.19	7-2	11907	5.72	8.58	11-9	21608	10.39	11.19
2.89	6004	4.34	5-10	12093	5.81	8.72	12-3	21804	10.48	11.19
2.98	6198	4.47	6-6	12100	5.82	8.73	11-10	22177	10.66	11.19
3.07	6392	4.61	7-3	12291	5.91	8.87	12-4	22485	10.81	11.19
3.16	6572	4.74	6-7	12446	5.98	8.97	12-5	23166	11.14	11.19
3.17	6586	4.76	7-4	12675	6.09	9.14	12-6	23847	11.46	11.19
3.26	6780	4.89	8-1	12763	6.14	9.21	13-1	24308	11.69	11.19
3.26	6791	4.89	6-8	12792	6.15	9.23	12-7	24528	11.79	11.19
3.35	6974	5.03	7-5	13059	6.28	9.42	13-2	25118	12.08	11.19
3.37	7010	5.06	6-9	13138	6.32	9.48	12-8	25209	12.12	11.19
3.45	7168	5.18	8-2	13188	6.34	9.51	12-9	25890	12.45	11.19
3.48	7229	5.22	7-6	13443	6.46	9.69	13-3	25928	12.47	11.19
3.54	7362	5.31	6-10	13484	6.48	9.72	12-10	26571	12.77	11.1
3.56	7408	5.34	8-3	13613	6.54	9.81	13-4	26738	12.85	11.1
3.58	7448	3.37	7-7	13827	6.65	9.98	13-5	27548	13.24	11.1
3.63	7556	5.45	8-4 -	14038	6.75	10.13	13-6	28358	13.63	11.19
3.68	7655	5.52	9-1-	14097	6.78	10.17	14-1	28725	13.81	11.19
3.69	7667	5.54	7-8	14211	6.83	10.25	13-7	29168	14.02	11.19
3.79	7886	5.69	8-5	14463	6.95	10.43	14-2	29683	14.27	11.1
3.80	7902	5.70	9-2	14567	7.00	10.50	13-8	29978	14.41	11.1
3.90	8105	5.85	7-9	14595	7.02	10.53	14-3	30641	14.73	11.1
3.92	8149	5.88	8-6	14888	7.16	10.74	13-9	30788	14.80	11.1
4.00	8316	6.00	7-10	14979	7.20	10.80	13-10	31598	15.19	11.19
4.00	8324	6.00	9-3	15037	7.23	10.85	14-4	31599	15.19	11.1
4.04	8396	6.06	8-7	15313	7.36	11.04	14-5	32557	15.65	11.1
4.11	8543	6.17	9-4	15507	7.46	11.19	14-6	33515	16.11	11.19
4.13	8593	6.20	10-1	15524	7.46	11.19	15-1	33789	16.24	11.19
4.16	8643	6.24	8-8	15738	7.57	11.19	14-7	34473	16.57	11.19
4.26	8870	6.39	9-5	15977	7.68	11.19	15-2	34915	16.79	11.19
4.27	8890	6.41	10-2	16041	7.71	11.19	14-8	35431	17.03	11.19
4.39	9137	6.59	8-9	16163	7.77	11.19	15-3	36041	17.33	11.1
4.40	9147	6.60	9-6	16447	7.91	11.19	14-9	36389	17.49	11.19
4.47	9303	6.71	10-3	16558	7.96	11.19	15-4	37167	17.87	11.1
4.51	9384	6.77	8-10	16588	7.98	11.19	14-10	37347	17.96	11.1
4.53	9424	6.80	9-7	16917	8.13	11.19	15-5	38293	18.41	11.1
4.62	9613	6.93	11-1	17056	8.20	11.19	15-6	39419	18.95	11.19
4.63	9631	6.95	10-4	17075	8.21	11.19	15-7	39600	19.04	
4.66	9701	6.99	9-8	17387	8.36	11.19	15-8	39600	19.04	
4.77	9923	7.16	10-5	17592	8.46	11.19	15-9	39600	19.04	
4.80	.9978	7.20	11-2	17625	8.47	11.19	15-10	39600	19.04	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
4.92	10233	7.38	9-9	17857	8.59	11.19	16-1	39600	19.04	
4.93	10255	7.40	10-6	18109	8.71	11.19	16-2	39600	19.04	
4.99	10370	7.49	11-3	18194	8.75	11.19	16-3	39600	19.04	
5.06	10532	7.59	9-10	18327	8.81	11.19	16-4	39600	19.04	
5.07	10543	7.61	10-7	18626	8.95	11.19	16-5	39600	19.04	
5.15	10716	7.73	11-4	18763	9.02	11.19	16-6	39600	19.04	
5.20	10809	7.80	10-8	19143	9.20	11.19	16-7	39600	19.04	
5.22	10853	7.83	11-5	19332	9.29	11.19	16-8	39600	19.04	
5.32	11062	7.98	10-9	19660	9.45	11.19	16-9	39600	19.04	
5.37	11163	8.06	11-6	19901	9.57	11.19	17-1	39600	19.04	
5.48	11408	8.22	10-10	20177	9.70	11.19	17-2	39600	19.04	
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-	11408 11473 11523 11754 11783	5.48 5.52 5.54 5.65 5.66	5.52 8.28 5.54 8.31 5.65 8.48	5.52 8.28 12-1 5.54 8.31 11-7 5.65 8.48 11-8	5.52 8.28 12-1 20442 5.54 8.31 11-7 20470 5.65 8.48 11-8 21039	5.528.2812-1204429.835.548.3111-7204709.845.658.4811-82103910.11	5.528.2812-1204429.8311.195.548.3111-7204709.8411.195.658.4811-82103910.1111.19	5.528.2812-1204429.8311.1917-35.548.3111-7204709.8411.1917-45.658.4811-82103910.1111.1917-5	5.528.2812-1204429.8311.1917-3396005.548.3111-7204709.8411.1917-4396005.658.4811-82103910.1111.1917-539600	5.528.2612-1204429.8311.1917-33960019.045.548.3111-7204709.8411.1917-43960019.045.658.4811-82103910.1111.1917-53960019.04

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR Employment Standards Administration Washington, D.C. 20210



OCT 1 5 1976

Mr. John R. Reiser Chairman Industrial Commission 515 East Musser Street Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Mr. Reiser:

We are again actively recruiting for qualified persons to fill a vacancy in our Workers' Compensation Program. Your assistance in this endeavor will be greatly appreciated.

The vacancy is that of a Supervisory Workers' Compensation Claims Examiner which can be filled at the GS-14 level, salary \$28,725 - \$37,347 per annum or at the GS-15 level, salary \$33,789 - \$39,600 per annum. This position will be located in San Francisco, California.

The following is a description of the position: The incumbent will serve as the Assistant Regional Administrator for Workers' Compensation in the San Francisco Regional Office, with responsibility for administering all regional workers' compensation programs under both the Longshoremen's and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act as extended, and the Federal Employees' Compensation Act as amended. The incumbent will exercise full technical and administrative responsibility for the two distinctly different types of benefit payment programs which affect the welfare and well being of thousands of claimants who reside within the jurisdiction of the Region.

This position requires a total of six or more years of experience. A minimum of three years of specialized experience which provided the candidate with the knowledge and ability to develop, examine, investigate, adjudicate or authorize claims for disability and death compensation. Also, required are three years of general experience in administrative, professional, investigative, technical or other progressively responsible work.

EXHIBIT "J"

RECEIVED

OCT 22 1976

NEVADA INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION We are asking you to assist us in this recruitment effort by circulating copies of this letter throughout your Department so that interested persons may apply. Any interested person may send a copy of a SF-171 (Personal Qualifications Statement), copies enclosed, to Mrs. Norma E. Ellerbee, Personnel Management Specialist, Employment Standards Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, Room S-3308, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20210, no later than November 19, 1976.

All applications received from non-Federal applicants will be referred to the U.S. Civil Service Commission for evaluation along with other qualified applicants.

Again, thank you for any assistance you may be able to provide us in our endeavor to fill this vacancy.

Sincerely,

Mayma & Mushe

Norma E. Ellerbee Personnel Management Specialist

Enclosure

RECEIVED 0(1 0 3 1976 NEVADA INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION