

EDUCATION, HEALTH, WELFARE AND STATE
INSTITUTIONS

FEBRUARY 10, 1977

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room of the Northern Nevada Children's Home on Thursday, February 10, 1977, with Senator Jack Schofield as Chairman.

PRESENT: Chairman Jack Schofield
Senator William Raggio
Senator Wilbur Faiss
Senator William H. Hernstadt

ABSENT: Senator Joe Neal
Senator Richard Blakemore

HOSTS: Mr. John M. Aberasturi, Superintendent of
Northern Nevada Children's Home
Mr. Orville Wahrenbrock, Dept. of Human Resources

Mr. Orville Wahrenbrock of the Department of Human Resources opened by commenting that Boulder City housed the Southern Nevada Children's Home, which functioned in the same manner as the Northern that was being viewed by the Committee today.

Mr. John M. Aberasturi, Superintendent, said that the school began in 1870, and in early 1960 converted to the cottage program with three residential facilities. Mr. Aberasturi came to the school in July of 1962, and by October of that year they had completed the seven (7) cottage system, (three homes, with ten girls each and four homes, with ten boys each). Each home has a residential man and wife couple that live-in five days per week, 24 hours per day, with week-ends off the school grounds.

Mr. Aberasturi said that children are sometimes placed on a waiting list for the N.N.C.H. and temporarily are placed in foster homes, or with relatives other than the parents. It was further pointed out that the average age of the children is 15½ years, and prior to their arrival to the N.N.C.H., the children averaged placement in six (6) different foster homes. Mr. Aberasturi said that most of the children do have jobs, most of which are with the State and funded by C.E.T.A., and they are given a bank account, and should supply some of their own clothing, etc., with this income. The children do attend public schools, and public recreational facilities.

Mr. Aberasturi said that in his executive budget he was not requesting any new staff, and any increase was only to compensate for inflation. He commented that at the Southern Nevada Children's Home some of the staff were asking for an increase from a Grade 35, but this was not in the budget.

The Superintendent also explained that part of his staff

consisted of two (2) social workers, and one part-time psychologist who came to the school twice per week.

Senator Hernstadt asked if there were a number of orphans committed to the Home. Mr. Aberasturi replied that orphans were rare because of the demand for adoption, and unless the child was extremely handicapped, he/she would probably be adopted. The Superintendent also stated that the School required \$50.00/month from the County who committed the child, and the County would in turn try to collect some payment from the family of the child.

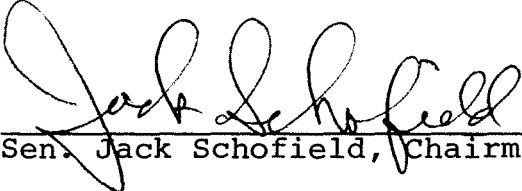
Mr. Wahrenbrock stated that this Home differed from Achievement House West in that N.N.C.H. had their residences for a much longer period of time, and the N.N.C.H. was sometimes considered a "stepping stone" prior to sending the child to either the Caliente or Elko facility.

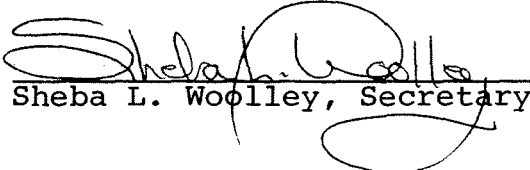
Mr. Aberasturi said that the Home has been greatly assisted with the financial donations made by Mr. Wilbur Mays, who at one time contributed funds for orthodontic operations, sleeping bags, a 15-passenger van, tennis courts, Christmas money for each child, European cruise for six children and \$10,000 for an incentive program.

Prior to dismissing for the tour of the grounds, Mr. Wahrenbrock drew a diagram for the Committee which showed the effect of the Governor's omnibus proposal to consolidate several boards and commissions. The diagram showed that all the facilities under the Youth Services Agency of the Department of Human Resources would have only one Advisory Board, instead of boards from other agencies, i.e., two boards from Welfare who advise the N.N.C.H. & S.N.C.H.

The Senators then went on a tour of the grounds which included the Commissary Building, the Gym and two cottages.

The Senators returned to the Legislative Building in time for the 11:00 a.m. roll-call.


Sen. Jack Schofield, Chairman


Sheba L. Woolley, Secretary