

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN
RESOURCES AND FACILITIES

The meeting was called to order at 8:39 a.m. on Thursday, March 24, 1977, in Room 323, with Senator Jack Schofield in the Chair.

PRESENT: Chairman Jack Schofield
Senator William Raggio
Senator Richard Blakemore
Senator Wilbur Faiss
Senator William Hernstadt

ABSENT: Senator Joe Neal

GUESTS: Allen Buell, International Management & Marketing
Wally Carson, International Management & Marketing
Bob J. Lewis, Sierra Pacific Power Company
William J. Labadie, Division of Welfare
Earl Yamashita, Division of Welfare
Gloria A. Handley, Division of Welfare

S.B. 322

Mr. Wally Carson and Mr. Allen Buell of the International Management & Marketing Company gave the opening testimony.

Mr. Carson said that the products that they purvey are energy and conservation oriented. He showed the Committee the water closet tank which uses 2 to 2½ gallons of water instead of 5 to 7. Mr. Carson said that 45% of the utilization of water in the average home goes through the water closets, and if you cut in half the amount of water that goes into effluency, you use one-half of the sewage treatment plant.

Mr. Carson also showed the water purifier and lamp (uses 100 watt bulb that will have three intensities when touched) to the Committee. He suggested that if the consumer uses these conservation products he should receive a reduction in his sewer bill, and perhaps the sales tax could be removed from these conservation items. Senator Raggio commented that a sales tax exemption would take a constitutional amendment.

Senator Faiss asked about the durability of moving parts? Mr. Carson said there are two moving parts in their water closet tank, versus about fifteen in the standard water closet; and they have been tested for 200,000 flushings without a replacement. Senator Faiss asked if the water purifier would remove arsenic? Mr. Carson said yes, it will remove everything but salt. Mr. Buell said that the purifier should remove all traces of arsenic because the water goes through the charcoal/silver suspension system, and this system is one of two that is Environmental Protection Agency approved.

Senator Schofield commented that the Committee heard testimony that these low-volume devices could not be adapted to older standard closets. Mr. Buell said that the system will work on every tank excepting a wall-hung water closet.

Mr. Carson said that the water closet tank they were marketing would cost approximately \$69 to \$79.

Senator Hernstadt asked what would this unit cost if sold in volume (100 apartments)? Mr. Carson said approximately \$40 or \$50. Mr. Buell sited some examples of where this had been done: a 58 unit convalescent home had the water usage drop 130,000 gallons in the first thirty days; and a Ramada Inn using these tanks has had an average saving per day/room of .18¢.

Senator Schofield said that as legislators they did not want to pass a bill that would cause a monopoly for one industry. Mr. Carson replied that there are four large manufacturers on the market who produce the 3½ gallon tanks.

Senator Hernstadt said that in Clark County there will be constructed a \$52 million waste-water treatment plant, and this will cause an increase of fees for the consumer of about \$2.00 or \$3.00 per month.

Senator Faiss asked about the expense of the water purifier? Mr. Carson said for a family of four with a 10,000 gallon unit, you will probably have seven years before you will have to replace the cartridge, and the cartridge is \$15.95.

Senator Hernstadt suggested that Mr. Buell and Mr. Carson testify to the Taxation Committee on this same date on S.J.R. 13 (Constitutional Amendment to allow the Legislature to enact tax abatements for the production of energy and reduction of pollution), which could be amended to include the conservation of water.

Senator Hernstadt asked what is the average head pressure from the tap? Mr. Buell said it varies, some are 40 lbs, and others 125 lbs. The Senator continued, is there any chance this thing can blow up? Mr. Buell said no, as the device has a back-flow valve and it has been tested for 250 lbs of pressure.

Mr. Bob Lewis of Sierra Pacific Power and serving on the Truckee Meadows Water Conservation Committee said that the Cities of Reno and Sparks are now looking at various ordinances dealing with water conservation, and one of the areas is the low-flow toilet. He urged the Committee to also include the shower-head device in the bill.

Mr. Lewis said a test was executed in Reno and Sparks with 300 homes in Reno and 419 homes in Sparks of all ages. The Committee installed in the toilet tanks; plastic bottles w/gravel, different kinds of tank dams, and also installed various types of shower heads and shower flow restrictors. Mr. Lewis said the end result was the use of a toilet tank dam, which he showed to the Committee, and one shower-flow restrictor which if used in every home in Reno and Sparks could save

conservatively 2 million gallons of water, (based on approximately 65,000 residential dwelling units and a reasonable expectation of saturation).

Senator Hernstadt asked about the cost of the devices? Mr. Lewis answered the cost of the dam and the restrictor together is .61¢ when purchased by a volume of 75,000. Mr. Lewis encouraged the Committee not to make the bill so restrictive that there will not be any competition on the market.

Senator Raggio commented that he was reluctant to make this issue a State statute, and felt it could be adopted by local entities. Senator Blakemore said that he felt the impetus for this legislation should come from the State.

The bill was held for further study.

A.B. 91

Mr. William Labadie and Ms. Gloria Handley of the State Welfare Division stated that A.B. 91 is drawn up to conform to the Federal laws and regulations on this subject. Mr. Labadie said that if an individual over 65 years of age were on the medical portion of the S.S.I. program and died, and even if that person's bills were correctly paid, the Welfare Division would have the opportunity to recover from the individual's estate.

Senator Blakemore asked why don't the counties also recover the .11¢ they pay into Medicaid? Mr. Labadie said they could make their own claim.

Mr. Labadie said the recovered funds will go into the General Fund.

Senator Raggio asked why is this necessary if the Federal law already allows the Division to do this? Mrs. Handley said the State law prohibits the Division from collecting on "correct" payments. Senator Raggio asked what are the limitations on income or finances for a person receiving Medicaid? Mr. Labadie said the limitations were recently lifted, however, they were \$25,000 maximum on the home, \$6,000 on contiguous property, and \$1,500 for one person and \$2,500 for two persons in savings.

Senator Raggio commented that it was conceivable that this law would allow the Division to make a claim against an estate and deprive an heir over 21 years of age of the inheritance. Mrs. Handley said that the Division can only make a claim against the amount of the payments made to the individual.

Mr. Earl Yamashita said that this bill is not new, as the Division has been trying to get this legislation passed since the inception of Title IXX.

Senator Blakemore said that before he can make a decision on

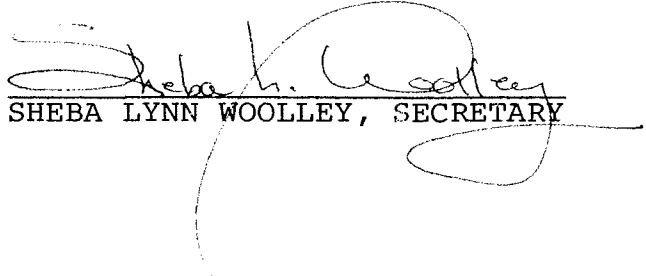
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this legislation, he would like to see how the Assembly voted on it.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.


SEN. JACK SCHOFIELD, CHAIRMAN


SHEBA LYNN WOOLLEY, SECRETARY