

SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING
Monday, May 2, 1977

The twenty-sixth meeting of the Senate Natural Resources Committee was called to order on the above date at 3:15 p.m. without a quorum.

Senator Echols, vice chairman, was in the Chair.

PRESENT: Senator Echols
Senator Glaser

ABSENT: Senator Sheerin
Senator Lamb
Senator Dodge
Senator Neal

OTHERS

PRESENT: Irwin L. Miller, Western Nevada Indian Agency
John W. Jackson, Reno
Glen Griffith, Nevada Fish and Game Department
Janet B. Allen, Nevada Indian Commission
Lillian Moore, Carson City
Pearl McQueen, Urban American Indian Association, Inc., of
Carson City
Pamela Wungrenia, Urban American Indian Association, Inc.,
of Carson City
Doris Ivanustos, President, Urban American Indian Association,
Inc., of Carson City
Linda D. Brown, Nevada Indian Commission

Senator Echols stated since there was not a quorum present, the Committee would hear testimony only.

AB 189 Revises various regulatory provisions on fish and game.

GLEN GRIFFITH, State Department of Fish and Game, said AB189 originated with the Fish and Game Department last Session in an attempt to remove the requirement for a state pheasant stamp, but in the delay the statutes were affected in one place, but not in six other places. The pheasant stamp is still in affect and the Fish and Game would like it deleted. It will mean a loss of about \$6,000. in revenue, Pheasant are no longer planted due to landowner aggravation. Mr. Griffith went through the bill explaining the changes in a chronological manner. SEC. 4 repeals NRS 502.280, which is the present license privileges for Indians hunting or fishing off Reservations, putting them on the same terms as all other people. Assuming that all the Indians obtain licenses that obtained a license under the free schedule, 2,601 would be sold for a total revenue of approximately \$43,000. Mr. Griffith said at the hearing of this bill in the Assembly several sportsmens clubs and county game

management boards were represented in support of the bill. Mr. Griffith said the rationale of the clubs was they thought everybody should have the same privileges and benefits and they did not think a segment of hunters and fishermen should be subsidizing another segment. Mr. Griffith said NRS 502.280 was originally enacted in 1923.

NORMAN ALLEN, director of Nevada Indian Commission, and LESLIE BLOSSOM, chief of Temoke Bands, Western Shoshone Indians, in the Elko area, chose to testify jointly.

Mr. Allen said he was present in his capacity to advise the Committee on some of the things concerned in AB189. Hunting and fishing is one of the last ways for the Indian people to prove their manhood. One of the concerns of this bill is a lot of the Indian people realize it is a privilege extended by the state toward Indian people, but it has been in effect so long that there are a lot of older Indians who consider it their right, and if it is repealed it will have an affect on them in their views toward the state. He said the leaders look upon this privilege extended by the state as one of the reasons Nevada Tribes have had a good relationship with the state. There is not the ill feelings in Nevada that there is in the Northwest or the Southwest between the Indians and states. If this bill is passed, it will be like a slap in the face to Indian leaders in Nevada. They have lost so many other things that formerly they considered theirs and it may have some sort of repercussions in some of the other dealings. A lot of the sportsmen here also enjoy natural resources on the Reservations such as Pyramid Lake and Ruby Reservoir. Mr. Allen stated AB189 really does not have that much to argue about, but it is something that has been mutually understood by the Indian Tribes and the citizens of Nevada.

Mr. Blossom concurred in the statements made by Mr. Allen.

JANET ALLEN, Nevada Indian Commission, testified in opposition to AB189 because she does not believe the total revenue loss is that great to the state, and she reiterated the length of time the Indians have enjoyed the privilege of free licensing. There are still numerous families that this bill will adversely affect, for instance a single parent with six or more children and one income. It was a graciously given privilege, but now it is unceremoniously being proposed to be taken away. She said she did not believe this bill is best for the state.

JOE BRASWELL spoke in opposition to AB189. He said he felt some discussion should have been held prior to

initiating this measure. He said this bill does nothing to cement good relations within the state. He hoped there would not be a hasty decision, and he said he felt it deserves a great deal more study than it has had before it is acted upon.

ROLAND MILLER, Bureau of Indian Affairs, criminal investigator, testifying on behalf of himself and the tribe he belongs to, talked in opposition to AB189, saying he does not believe it is the revenue which brought the whole subject together; he believes it is a lot of influence from so-called sportsmen. He believes the Indian should be thought of first before the out-of-state sportsmen.

SENATOR ECHOLS said the concept of this bill is equalizing of the total cost to everyone. He pondered the possibility of an interim study the next biennium on this matter. Senator Echols wondered if a representative group of persons that could speak for the Nevada Indian population could meet with a Legislative Committee for interim study.

MR. ALLEN requested permission to address the possibility of an interim study. He said interim studies have been suggested in the past. The problem that comes about is when the Indian Tribes are confronted with a problem like AB189, they often contact other state agencies, and agencies as such do not have the authority to come in and sit down with Legislators or members of the county commissioners, so they contact other state agencies or other attorneys; and what it turns out being is attorneys talking to attorneys. The lawmakers are always excluded and that does not create harmony between the groups when someone else prepares something for litigation. But it seems that if lawmakers can sit down and talk with the Indian leaders some of these things could be resolved. It is unprecedented to this point, but it seems it could work. There are legalities involved, but if an informal committee with some of the legislators and some of the Indian Tribal Counsels could be formed at least the way would be paved for a start.

SENATOR ECHOLS said it would have to be a formal and official situation. He said he would try to get a resolution introduced in this Legislative Session to enable such an interim study.


DORIS IVANUSTOS, president, Urban American Indian Association, Inc., Carson City, said there are urban organizations throughout the state which are not represented. It is estimated there are 5,000 Indians in the cities without representation in matters such as AB189.

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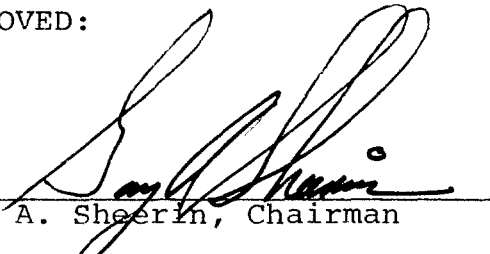
JANET ALLEN told of the committees being formed in Montana and the procedure that state is taking in connection with the Indian problems having similar impact as AB189.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Billie Brinkman, Secretary

APPROVED:


Gary A. Sheerin, Chairman

DATE May 2, 1977

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TELEPHONIFYING? NAME ORGANIZATION ADDRESS PHONE

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	Glen Griffith	Fish & Game	Reno, NV.	784-6219
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	Linda D. Brown	NV. INDIAN COMMISSION	1135 Terminal Way Reno, NV.	784-6240