

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
MARCH 29, 1977

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 A. M.

Senator Floyd R. Lamb was in the chair.

PRESENT: Senator Floyd R. Lamb, Chairman
Senator James I. Gibson, Vice-Chairman
Senator Norman D. Glaser
Senator Norman Ty Hilbrecht
Senator Thomas R. C. Wilson
Senator C. Clifton Young
Senator Eugene V. Echols

OTHERS Ronald W. Sparks, Chief Deputy, Fiscal Analysis
Howard Barrett, Budget Director
Cy Ryan, UPI
Roger Trounday, Director, Department of Human Resources

Senator Lamb called the Committee's attention to S.C.R. 26; Authorizes expenditure from legislative fund for travel, subsistence and honorarium to Mr. Hardin Jones. Senator Young moved that the resolution pass; Senator Hilbrecht seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Roger Trounday was asked to talk with the Committee on the Mental Hygiene Retardation Budget. Senator Lamb explained that they had asked Mr. Sparks to show them areas in which cuts could be made in the budget and they would like to have some input from Mr. Trounday on the subject. Mr. Trounday said he supported the concept but not the places where the cuts were suggested. He said the Department had a lot of new programs that had started up. The Central Administration of the Division had a small staff to administer the biggest division in the Department in numbers of personnel. They have 24-hour coverage such as the Mental Health Institute and Las Vegas Mental Health Clinic. Trying to coordinate this kind of a program with the staff that is presently in the central office, it comes to the point where they have to constantly go down and visit the programs and monitor them; it has become very difficult to coordinate the programs to keep them going in the direction that is consistent with the philosophy that they are trying to establish. Mr. Trounday said there was a need for some modifications on the local level based upon the makeup of the people you have in the community that you are dealing with. But still the overall thrust should be along the lines of an approved budget and the philosophy that an agency is operating under.

In answer to a question by Senator Echols, he explained that he was talking about the overall administrator for the entire division whose staff shows in the budget. That man is trying to coordinate all those programs throughout the state. He said that either the central office has to be beefed up so they can maintain a better surveillance of these programs to determine the direction in which they are going, or they have to set up regional direction. Under this concept the overall state administrator would make sure that the coordinators in the regions are responsive to the direction received from the state, from the state budget, from the state legislative direction, and following the thrust of the division administrator of the department or the Governor. When there are a lot of programs scattered all over the state without some way of coordinating them, the man sitting in Carson City cannot control them very easily without some assistance. He must have help at the central division office or, as has been recommended, the regional concept should be in effect. There are two pretty distinct regions within the state, north and south, considering that there is already a regional concept in the rural programs.

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That is the thinking behind the regional concept and the rationale. With offices all over the state, if you do not keep track of them, they have a tendency to start to drift and the result is there is no continuity in the mental health services. This is a situation that has existed for some time.

A person leaving the Institute and returning to his own community should continue to be treated in the same way and with the same philosophy. When they are not, the people just keep getting joggled around. With the present staff at the central administration of the mental health division it is not possible to adequately monitor without some assistance.

Senator Hilbrecht said he felt Mr. Trounday was pointing out two alternatives. One is "to beef up" the central staff; the other is to go into a regional concept. He said he would be interested in being able to compare the economies of these two program approaches. It seemed inconceivable to him that the Division would require the same staffing in both configurations. Mr. Trounday said they would be pretty much the same. He said they had not added too much to the regional offices except the position of business manager and the over-all administrator and health educator. He stressed the need to improve the quality of the programs they had, and said if economies had to be realized, he would prefer to lessen the load in the mental health series rather than take away from the administration because they need good quality and accountability in the existing programs. He discussed areas where he felt cuts could be made. Senator Hilbrecht said he did not view the division as an administrative division, but as a service division. Mr. Trounday said they could not give services without adequate administration. He suggested that they let him take a look at some of the programs and come back with suggestions where cuts could be made without disrupting the quality of services that they are presently trying to establish. Senator Lamb asked if he could return at 4:00 p. m. with his suggested revisions and Mr. Trounday agreed.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S BUDGET: Mr. Barrett said there was a supplemental on the Assembly side in the area of in-state travel because of the per diem that he is now entitled to because he moved to Las Vegas. This is authorized by law. At the time the budget was built he was living in the North and not entitled to per diem. A discussion followed on the costs of in-state travel and the requested secretarial salaries and the need for a full time secretary in the Las Vegas office. Senator Gibson moved to amend contractual services to provide one full time secretary, at \$1,050 per month with \$1,000 in in-state travel for the secretary. Senator Glaser seconded and the motion passed with Senators Hilbrecht and Echols dissenting. Senator Hilbrecht said he felt there was a need for more secretarial services. Senator Young moved that the budget be approved as amended; Senator Gibson seconded and the motion carried.

STATE COMMUNICATIONS BOARD BUDGET: Senator Gibson said he felt the Board was violating the intent of the statute, but he didn't think it affected the budget. He felt the violation was in the area of increase in service. He thought a letter of intent should be added saying if they wanted to improve the system that it should be done through a cost benefit type study. He moved the budget be approved; Senator Echols seconded and the motion carried. Senator Lamb said he had checked the figures given him by the Board and the monies put into the system have been underestimated by \$1. million.

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PUBLIC WORKS BOARD BUDGET: Senator Gibson moved the Committee go with the budget contingent on the C.I.P. program; Senator Hilbrecht seconded and the motion carried.

EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION BUDGET: Senator Hilbrecht introduced Earl Oliver, Legislative Auditor. A handout was passed around on the budget and Mr. Oliver spoke with reference to the handout and also charts similar to the ones used in an earlier presentation.

Senator Hilbrecht said that the Department of Education had responded to several memoranda and had reevaluated some criticisms in them with respect to his recommendations to the Committee previously. He asked Mr. Oliver if the memo given to the Committee contained a summary of his reanalysis after reviewing the memoranda submitted from the Department of Education. Mr. Oliver indicated that this was correct. He said he had found some areas in which there had been errors in the original Committee presentation, but none that would affect the original recommendation to decrease the personnel. A discussion followed on the contents on the Revised Committee Report. The information discussed was essentially the same as that listed in the minutes of the meeting of March 15, 1977. Senator Hilbrecht moved that the Committee close the budget on page 136 with addition of a salary savings measured by salaries of the Executive Assistant, Photographer I, 4 Educational Consultants, the Assistant Director of Technical Assistance, the Principal Clerk Stenographer, totalling roughly \$170,000 annually. Senator Wilson seconded and the motion carried.

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION BUDGET: Senator Glaser moved that the Committee go with the Governor; Senator Young seconded and the motion carried.

EDUCATION CIVIL RIGHTS TITLE IV BUDGET: Senator Hilbrecht moved the Committee go with the Governor; Senator Wilson seconded and the motion carried.

ESEA TITLE IV C BUDGET: Senator Hilbrecht moved that the Committee amend the budget of page 150 and close it by additional salary savings measured in the amount by the salary of Assistant Director Program Services; 2 Educational Consultants and one Consultant on Indian Education. Senator Glaser seconded and the motion passed. This is approximately \$93,000 the first year and \$94,000 in the second. Mr. Sparks asked, since this was a federal budget, did the committee want to reduce the revenue or go ahead and put the savings into the grant category. Senator Lamb asked Senator Hilbrecht if that was the way he wanted it handled and he agreed.

ESEA TITLE VI BUDGET: Senator Hilbrecht moved the Committee go with the Governor; Senator Young seconded and the motion carried.

COMPREHENSIVE EMPLOYMENT TRAINING ACT BUDGET: Senator Hilbrecht moved that the Committee amend the budget by additional salary savings in the amount of the positions in the budget. Senator Wilson seconded and the motion carried.

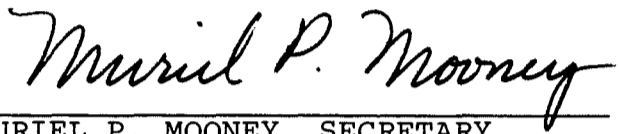
VOCATIONAL EDUCATIONAL BUDGET: Senator Hilbrecht moved that the Committee close the budget with additional savings measured by the salaries of two educational consultants; Senator Young seconded and the motion carried. Mr. Barrett asked if the Committee intended to decrease general fund or increase aid to school.

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Senator Hilbrecht said he wanted to put the savings in the aid to schools.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 A. M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:


MURIEL P. MOONEY, SECRETARY

APPROVED:


FLOYD R. LAMB, CHAIRMAN