

Date: March 6, 1979

Page: 1

Members Present:

Chairman Hayes  
Vice Chairman Stewart  
Mr. Banner  
Mr. Brady  
Mr. Coulter  
Mr. Fielding  
Mr. Horn  
Mr. Malone  
Mr. Sena

Members Absent:

Mr. Polish  
Mr. Prengaman

Guests Present:

Atha Carillo	Jacks Valley Volunteer Fire Dept.
Tony Clark	Nevada National Guard
Bette Lee Collins	Douglas County Women's Caucus
Les Groth	Nevada Fire Chief's Association
Linni Hamm	Jacks Valley Volunteer Fire Dept.
John Holmes	Pres., Jacks Valley Volunteer Fire Dept.
Polly Holmes	Jacks Valley Volunteer Fire Dept.
Debbie Johnstone	Jacks Valley Volunteer Fire Dept.
Sandra Jolley	Pro-Family Coalition of So. Nevada
Larry Ketzenberger	Las Vegas Metro Police Department
Lucille Lusk	Pro-Family Coalition of So. Nevada
Peggy Twedt	League of Women Voters of Nevada
Ruth Ann Wright	National Organization of Women

Chairman Hayes called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

ASSEMBLY BILL 236

Extends firefighting rights and duties to females.

Mr. John Holmes, President of the Jacks Valley Volunteer Fire Department stated that his department could not do without the women. Fifty percent of their crew are women; they are fully trained firefighters. The women go through the same training as the men do. Mr. Holmes felt that the women make up an essential part of the organization. Mr. Holmes introduced four women who are currently on the Jacks Valley Volunteer Fire Department: Ms. Polly Holmes, PBX Operator; Mrs. Atha Carrillo, mother and housewife; Ms. Debbie Johnstone, nurse; and Linnie Hamm, rancher. These four women expressed their feelings on AB 236. Mrs. Carrillo

said that if she were called to a fire, her neighbors were available to take care of her children. The women were in agreement to take out any reference to men in the bill.

Mr. Holmes stated that as far as training is concerned, NDF puts forth all training in brush firefighting. Firefighters are required to clear a path 4' x 6' wide and 100' long straight through sage brush. When all equipment is on it weighs approximately 80 to 85 pounds.

Mr. Holmes said that the Jacks Valley Volunteer Fire Department is considered the initial tact team for the area as they are situated south of Carson City and north of Gardnerville. They are generally first on the scene. Mr. Holmes said that their department is usually called out on fires once a month.

When asked if there were more injury claims for women than men, Mr. Holmes stated that women were no more prone to injury than men.

Mr. Holmes stated that because there had been no fires of large magnitude in the past years and because there are usually more volunteers than needed they have not had an occasion to draft anyone.

Mr. Holmes said that women had been with the fire department for the past 3 years. Mr. Holmes felt that if the women quit it would mean having hardly any day time coverage. The department depends on the women and retired people for their day time coverage.

NIC coverage was discussed in regard to members of the volunteer fire department being covered. It was stated that all volunteers are covered and are required to have a yearly physical. Volunteers are not allowed if under the age of 16 or over 50. If a person were drafted they would not be covered by NIC. NIC stipulates the age classification. It was asked if age status could be changed but it was not in the Committee's power to change the age structure, the bill would have to be amended.

Mr. Les Groth, Nevada Fire Chief's Association gave his support of AB 236. Mr. Groth said that when volunteer firefighters are needed they are available. Mr. Groth said that there are many women firefighters in the National Forest Service. Mr. Groth suggested that for NIC purposes, the age limit be raised to 18 years of age and that 50 years of age remain as is.

Mrs. Lucille Lusk, spoke in opposition of AB 236. Mrs. Lusk felt that people who are not trained should not be drafted. Mrs. Lusk also felt that the bill did not differentiate well enough between those who would be on the front line of a fire and those who would be couriers.

ASSEMBLY BILL 235

Removes exclusive references to men in National Guard and militia.

Mr. Tony Clark, Attorney and member of the Nevada National Guard, stated that the National Guard did not have any objection to this bill being enacted. Mr. Clark said that there were 1,010 Army Guardsmen, 68 of them being women. There are 776 members of the Air National Guard, 93 are women. Mr. Clark said that women were doing very good jobs. The women are assigned to every section of the military except combat and air crew sections. They have women in supply, motor pool, headquarters, intelligence, photo lab and security police.

Mrs. Lucille Lusk expressed her opposition to this bill. Mrs. Lusk asked Mr. Clark if there were any problems between males and females in the military of if women would prove a problem; Mr. Clark said there had been no problems in the past and did not foresee any. When asked by Mrs. Lusk if women would be called into combat Mr. Clark said no.

ASSEMBLY BILL 225

Removes prohibition of employment of minors in public dancehalls.

Mr. Larry Ketzenberger, Las Vegas Metro Police Department, stated that his main concern with this bill was that minors not be employed in dancehalls for profit. Chairman Hayes requested Mr. Ketzenberger work on this bill and get more ideas.

ASSEMBLY BILL 265

Abolishes "tender years" criterion in child custody cases.

Mrs. Lucille Lusk stated that her objection appeared in Line 18 and 19. Mrs. Lusk said that this line appears to infer that if preference is given to the female in the case it is given solely because she is the mother and not because she is more able to care for the child. Mrs. Lusk felt that there were a number of things that should be taken into consideration that are not mentioned in the bill. Mrs. Lusk felt that it was unnecessary to specify that preference must not be given to the mother and would like to see Line 18 and 19 deleted from this bill. The mother of the child has a very special relationship with the child and this relationship should not be minimized.

Mr. Stewart said that there are many judges, who because the child is very young, will award it to the mother. That is not originally what the tender years doctrine meant; the best interest of the child should be the sole consideration.

ASSEMBLY BILL 246

Removes distinction based on sex from NRS 194.010.

Mrs. Lusk's main concern with this bill was that if women or men were coerced into a criminal act would they be covered.

ASSEMBLY BILL 264

Removes distinctions based on sex from NRS 207.040.

Mrs. Lusk asked if this bill would have women working on road crews with male workers. Chairman Hayes stated that we have guidelines on how we treat prisoners.

ASSEMBLY BILL 226

Removes distinctions based on sex from several sections of chapter 126 of NRS.

Mrs. Lusk said that she was unable to understand this bill. She said this would confuse the issue of illegitimate children to the point that it would increase difficulty with adoption. Mr. Stewart did not feel this would be a problem with regard to adoption. Mr. Stewart said that he would like time to check out this bill.

ASSEMBLY BILL 228

Removes distinctions based on sex from NRS 82.310.

Mrs. Lusk said that she would like to know why legislature is dealing specifically with any church. She felt that the Episcopal Church, along with any church that incorporates would be covered under corporation laws. Chairman Hayes stated that Bishop Frensdorff from the Protestant Episcopal Church of Reno would be testifying tomorrow to answer any questions on this issue; she said the Committee also had many questions on this issue. Mr. Horn said that testimony given yesterday on AB 228 said this bill originated in 1862, revised in 1919 and because the Episcopal Church at that time became a corporation, the state has under its corporate structure the right to regulate it. Mr. Horn felt the entire bill should be repealed so that church and state are not mixed in any shape or form.

Mrs. Lusk said that as separate bills these are commendable, as a package they would be very difficult to work with.

ASSEMBLY BILL 466

Removes distinctions based on sex from requirements to serve on posse.

Mrs. Lusk felt that if this is to be a mandatory bill similar to the firefighters bill she did not think it should be necessary to have a mandatory call into this type service.

AB 466

Ms. Ruth Ann Wright, Legislative Chairperson for Northern Nevada Chapter of the National Organization for Women, stated that her testimony dealt with the entire package. She said that NOW's major goal is that of promoting full equality between sexes and thus bringing women into the mainstream of American society. The legislative committee of NOW broke the package down into categories to get their feelings on each bill, their determination is as follows:

1. AB 246 - this bill places women in the category with lunatics, small children and those not responsible for their own actions. This kind of bill typifies sexism in our law.
2. AB 225, 229, 244, 260, 261, 262, 264 - these particular bills need to be cleaned up, they have unnecessary restrictions on basis of sex.
3. AB 245, 259, 263 - these bills are referred to as "men's rights". NOW believes that men have benefitted from feminism. These bills extend rights to widowers.
4. AB 235, 236, 466 - the point NOW wanted to use with this category of bills is that in this nation and state equal rights mean equal responsibility, NOW opposes special privileges.
5. AB 226, 265 - NOW felt this was the most important category of this package, these bills allow for equal parenting, this will provide parents of both sexes with equal rights in child custody cases and equal responsibility in child support cases.
6. AB 227 - this category proposes changes in laws that will bring the laws in line with sexual assault laws in Nevada concerning rape, etc. These laws were written in non-sexist terms. NOW suggested Line 23, Page 1, "procuring abortion" be deleted as it is no longer illegal to procure an abortion in this state. Line 4, Page 1, it implies that if a person is not of previous chaste character then it is not possible for that person to be involved in pandering against another person. NOW does not know what the nature of the victim has to do with commission of crime.
7. AB 228 - NOW would like to see this law repealed.

AB 466

Ms. Wright stated that NOW endorses the passage of the bills in their entirety. NOW feels that when all the bills are considered it will be a step forward towards equality in the laws of Nevada.

Ms. Peggy Twedt, League of Women Voters of Nevada, said that the League does support the package as a whole and is strongly in favor of eliminating sex discrimination laws in Nevada.

ASSEMBLY BILL 229

Removes distinction based on sex from NRS 156.040.

Mr. Horn made the motion Do Pass on this bill; Mr. Malone seconded the motion. The Committee approved the motion on the following vote:

Aye - Hayes, Stewart, Banner, Brady, Coulter, Fielding,  
Horn, Malone - 8

Nay - 0

Not Voting - Polish, Prengaman, Sena - 3

ASSEMBLY BILL 244

Removes distinctions based on sex from NRS 41.200.

Mr. Horn made the motion Do Pass AB 244; Mr. Stewart seconded the motion. The Committee approved the motion on the following vote:

Aye - Hayes, Stewart, Banner, Brady, Coulter, Fielding  
Horn, Malone - 8

Nay - 0

Not Voting - Polish, Prengaman, Sena - 3

ASSEMBLY BILL 245

Removes distinctions based on sex from NRS 146.010.

Mr. Horn made the motion Do Pass on AB 245; Mr. Malone seconded the motion. The Committee approved the motion on the following vote:

Aye - Hayes, Stewart, Banner, Brady, Coulter, Fielding,  
Horn, Malone - 8

Nay - 0

Not Voting - Polish, Prengaman, Sena - 3

ASSEMBLY BILL 259

Extends annuity provision in partnerships to both widows and widowers.

Mr. Horn made the motion Do Pass AB 259; Mr. Malone seconded the motion. The Committee approved the motion on the following vote:

Aye - Hayes, Stewart, Banner, Brady, Coulter, Fielding, Horn, Malone - 8

Nay - 0

Not Voting - Polish, Prengaman, Sena - 3

ASSEMBLY BILL 260

Prohibits distinctions based on sex in salaries of school teachers.

Mr. Horn made the motion Do Pass on AB 260; Mr. Stewart seconded the motion. The Committee approved the motion on the following vote:

Aye - Hayes, Stewart, Banner, Brady, Coulter, Fielding, Horn, Malone - 8

Nay - 0

Not Voting - Polish, Prengaman, Sena - 3

ASSEMBLY BILL 261

Removes distinctions based on sex from insurance license applications.

Mr. Horn made the motion Do Pass AB 261; Mr. Malone seconded the motion. The Committee approved the motion on the following vote:

Aye - Hayes, Stewart, Banner, Brady, Coulter, Fielding, Horn, Malone - 8

Nay - 0

Not Voting - Polish, Prengaman, Sena - 3

ASSEMBLY BILL 263

Removes distinctions based on sex from NRS 417.090.

Mr. Horn made the motion Do Pass AB 263; Mr. Malone seconded the motion. The Committee approved the motion on the following vote:

Aye - Hayes, Stewart, Banner, Brady, Coulter, Fielding,  
Horn, Malone - 8

Nay - 0

Not Voting - Polish, Prengaman, Sena - 3

ASSEMBLY BILL 378

Permits district attorney to certify photographs of certain property held as evidence and return property to owner before trial.

Chairman Hayes said that this was Mr. Hickey's bill and that committee minutes were not yet available. Amendments would be needed on this bill and action would be taken at tomorrow's meeting.

ASSEMBLY BILL 28

Raises monetary limit of jurisdiction of justices' courts.

Chairman Hayes requested the limit be placed at \$750 instead of \$1000; with \$1000 limit there would be an increased number of JP's. Chairman Hayes said that the conference committee would discuss this.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Sharon L. Day*

Sharon L. Day  
Secretary