

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairman Westall
Vice Chairman Mello
Mr. Barengo
Mr. Glover
Mr. Rusk
Mr. Tanner
Mr. Weise

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Harmon
Mr. Vergiels

GUESTS PRESENT

See Guest List attached.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Westall at 5:00 p.m. She called for testimony on behalf of A.C.R. 34.

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 34

Assemblyman Bill Brady testified in favor of A.C.R. 34. He stated that the average age in the State Prison system is 23 1/2 years old with an eighth grade education. Fifty percent of the first time inmates will not repeat. He read from several news articles regarding juvenile crimes, with some of them being as young as eight years old. In Las Vegas, juveniles are responsible for 90 percent of residential burglaries. They showed how the juvenile crimes lead to adult crimes. He feels that this study could lead to a great decrease of juvenile crime, which would lead to comparable decrease of adult crime. Mr. Brady showed charts showing the percentage of crimes committed by different age groups, which illustrated the extremely high percentages committed by juveniles. A copy of the charts is attached hereto and marked Exhibit A. He outlined several programs through the schools, including many positive strategies which could reduce the likelihood of drug and alcohol abuse before they begin or progress too far, and programs such as that presented in the film, "Scared Straight".

Mr. Rusk asked what Mr. Brady could see coming out of the study that we do not have now.

Mr. Brady did not think that there is a lot being done now on the prevention aspect. He feels that the study committee could help develop a lot of new programs. These could include programs in the schools which would be run a great deal by students themselves, and programs which teach juveniles self esteem and a positive self image. Peer group pressures could be extremely important.

Frank Carmen, Director of the Clark County Juvenile Court, generally supported a study of juvenile crime in the State of Nevada. His problem with A.C.R. 34 is that it limits itself in that it does not

include the status offenders that are referred to them, the runaways, unmanageables, truants, etc. He would not single out alcoholism as a separate study. This is one of the symptoms that associates itself with juvenile crime, but the study should include disintegrated families, lack of values, poor judgement, lack of discipline, use of other drugs other than alcohol, poor success in school, etc. He would support the study because most people are not aware of the magnitude of the problem and he would like to have this publicized, and get some direction from the legislature as to what the priorities of the state might be in terms of where they would want the resources, such as do they want more institutions, more front end programs such as diversion or community based programs, find out cost effectiveness of existing programs and establish some kind of state wide unification program. There are several juvenile studies being proposed but none that he is aware of dealing specifically with juvenile crime. This study should be coordinated with those of the juvenile courts and child abuse, neglect and abandonment which would apply to delinquency.

Chairman Westall asked Mr. Carmen if he would make recommendations for amending A.C.R. 34 to cover what he had suggested. He said that he would.

Mr. Tanner said that he feels that the greatest problem in the juvenile drug area is rehabilitation.

Mr. Carmen feels that the study group should include or call on delinquency and youth specialists on a routine basis. This would give the court system more direction as to necessities within the boundaries of funds available.

Mr. Brady felt that many prevention programs could be handled without cost to the taxpayers by volunteers. He has had many people contact him to this effect.

Testimony was concluded on A.C.R. 34.

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 37

Assemblyman Dean Rhoads, Elk District 34, explained that ranchers locking gates to public lands is getting to be a very serious problem. The problem is set forth at greater length in the copy of a newspaper article provided by Mr. Rhoads, a copy of which is attached hereto and marked Exhibit B. It will be more of a problem when a lot of the wilderness areas go into existence and more land is locked up by the federal government. He said that much of the public is not aware that fields that are on forest service or public land are fenced with gates and the ranchers are responsible for the livestock on those fields, and if somebody leaves the gates open the ranchers could lose their permits. Some other states are adding costs on to hunting and fishing licenses and reimbursing ranchers and private land owners for damage to property and loss of livestock. Some states buy the hunting rights from ranchers. Sometimes the hunting rights are bought by private groups. Some ranchers provide facilities for hunters. He supports a study of the problem and feels that the agencies involved

would be happy to cooperate.

Chairman Westall asked if Mr. Rhoads thought this could be handled by staff. He did not think it could be handled by staff.

Mr. Glover stated that he had been contacted by many people who felt that there is a real problem here and he feels that a study would be of great benefit.

Chairman Westall asked how many meetings Mr. Rhoads thought would be needed to conduct such a study. He felt that it would take at least five to six to go into detail. He left a copy of proposed amendments to A.C.R. 37, a copy of which is attached hereto and marked Exhibit C. He also submitted a copy of a letter and recommendation from the State Multiple Use Advisory Committee on Federal Lands, a copy of which is attached hereto and marked Exhibit D.

Tod Bedrosian, Assembly District 24, testified in favor of A.C.R. 37 as an urban sportsman. Members of sportsmen's groups in his district have expressed support for this study.

Testimony was concluded on A.C.R. 37.

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 23

Janet Sobel, elected representative of District A of the Clark County School Board, and not in capacity as Vice President of that board, urged support of this resolution. She explained that the board has gone on record as opposing A.C.R. 37, and she has come here at her own expense to express the minority position of that board. The board refused to allow her expenses to represent a dissenting opinion. She stated that the people who she represents in Henderson and Boulder City frequently feel alienated from the Clark County School District and she is forced to pay her own way in order to represent them at the Legislature. She felt that this instance showed the need for a study of this type. Mrs. Sobel presented a prepared statement, a copy of which is attached hereto and marked Exhibit E.

Mr. Glover asked Mrs. Sobel if she would object to amending this resolution to consider what a minimum and a maximum size would be for a school district.

Mrs. Sobel said that this would be good, unless location isolated smaller school districts and so made them necessary. The study would give guidelines to the divisions, if they were thought to be necessary. After guidelines were suggested, then it would be easier to go ahead.

James H. Lyman, President of the Clark County School Board of Trustees, presented testimony in opposition of A.C.R. 23. He also stated that he came here at his own expense. He presented a statement by Robert Forbuss, a member of the Clark County Board

a copy of which is attached hereto and marked Exhibit F. This was adopted by the School Board as their majority opinion. He refuted the testimony of Mrs. Sobel. He feels that there is no statistical evidence that the size of an urban area has anything to do with student achievement, even though the Clark County area is one of the largest school districts in the country. He feels that the tax payers money should not be spent on a study such as this.

Testimony was concluded on A.C.R. 23.

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 35

Russ McDonald, representing the Nevada Association of County Commissioners, stated that A.C.R. 35 responds to a resolution of that body which was adopted last November. The preamble merely states the fact that the fee structure set out for counties for a variety of services performed is confusing, antiquated and out dated. This resolution speaks to having a study made to evaluate those existing statutes. Each year when there is some crisis in respect to an increase in fees, such as for filings in Justice Court, District Court, Clerk's fees, etc., they tack another shingle on it. Historically, some of these have existed in the same form since 1861 in the territorial days. This prompted some apprehension of some fiscal restrictions that would be imposed on counties by this Legislature. This is a study that could be well done by the staff. It would show if the fees are adequate for services rendered by government. He urged that the study be made.

Mrs. Westall asked if there would be a lot of fees to be studied. Mr. McDonald answered that there would only be about 50 to 60 sections of the code that would need to be studied. One alternative would be that the Legislature could allow the counties to set their own fees.

Testimony was concluded on A.C.R. 35.

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 36

Russ McDonald explained that A.C.R. 36 is also a Nevada Association of County Commissioners resolution. They would like to have a review of Chapter 361, which has to do with the collection of the property tax because of the fallback of one year. He said that at least ten years ago the Legislative Commission did go into this in depth. What the County Commissioners is after is that the cash flow and the eighteen months lag makes using the certified assessed roll over here to build the budget into a spread that is unrealistic. Staff could possibly review that study. The questions of land delinquencies are what offer certain legal complications. If this resolution passes all the points he makes could be taken up by the Commission or a subcommittee in four or five meetings. This is a plea from the counties for at least some indirect financial assistance.

Testimony was concluded on A.C.R. 36.

ASSEMBLY BILL 706

Assemblyman Robert Weise testified that he feels that A.B. 706 is a good alternative to the Sunset bill. But this goes through a little further. He is not sure it is necessary to sunset the agencies. This bill provides a more efficient alternative in that it would review each of the agencies of state government, insofar as their policies, programs and operations are concerned as to what it is doing, and whether it is appropriate today as opposed to the time it came on line with the budget. He used the investigation of the Real Estate Division and the changes made there as an example. The total review that could take place would be one third of the budgets, and would probably be substantially less than one third, depending on the size of the agency. One of the keys to the bill is in Section 3, Subparagraph 2, where they could have closed hearings. Most people will not criticize an agency in public as they fear for their jobs. The State Employees Association endorses this concept strongly. It would help the Legislature to get a better understanding of what is going on in these areas that the people don't want to talk about. Money saving suggestions should be rewarded with a bonus. Section 5 requires the Budget Director to cooperate with the committee and Section 6 requires state employees to at least not frustrate the efforts of the committee. There has been no fiscal note prepared yet. There would be more legislative participation than staff in this investigation. It would be basically a standing type committee that would meet on a fairly regular basis.

Mrs. Westall stated that she likes the concept of the bill, and it has a lot of merit. She said there is a minor conflict with a bill that has been passed.

Testimony was concluded on A.B. 706.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 25

No testimony was presented on A.J.R. 25.

It was moved by Mr. Rusk, seconded by Mr. Weise that A.J.R. 25 be recommended Do Pass. The motion was not carried.

Assembly Concurrent Resolution 31

Chairman Westall announced that A.C.R. 31 needed a technical amendment to correct 59th Session to 60th Session. This will be taken care of.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Ruth Olguin
Committee Secretary

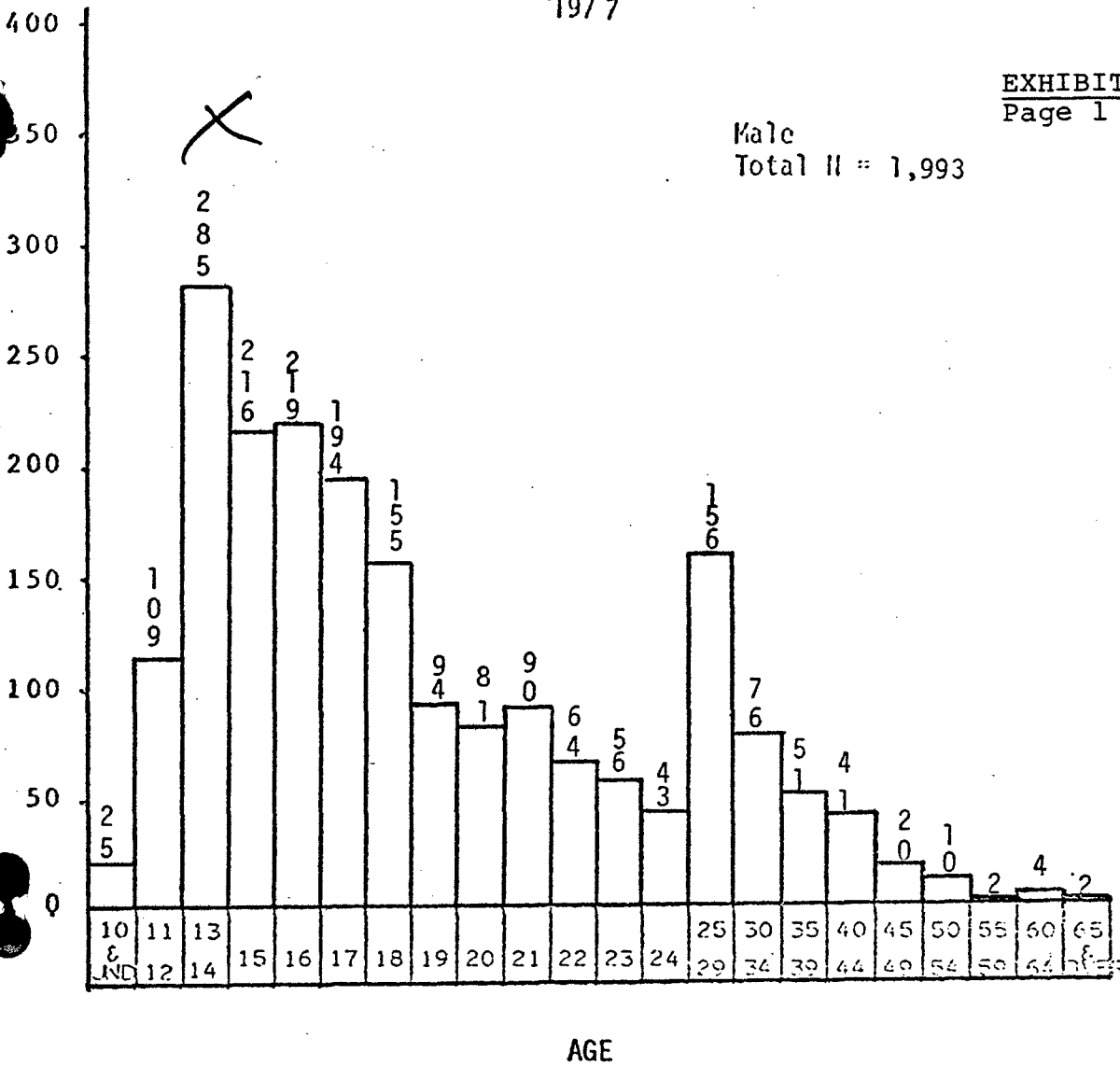
no. Arrests

ARRESTS FOR BURGLARY BY AGE AND SEX
1977

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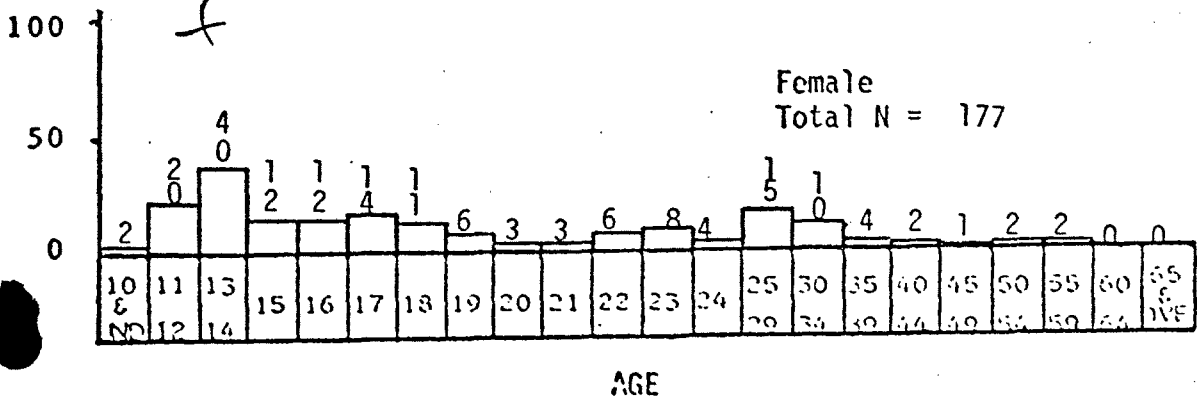
EXHIBIT A
Page 1

Male
Total N = 1,993



no. Arrests

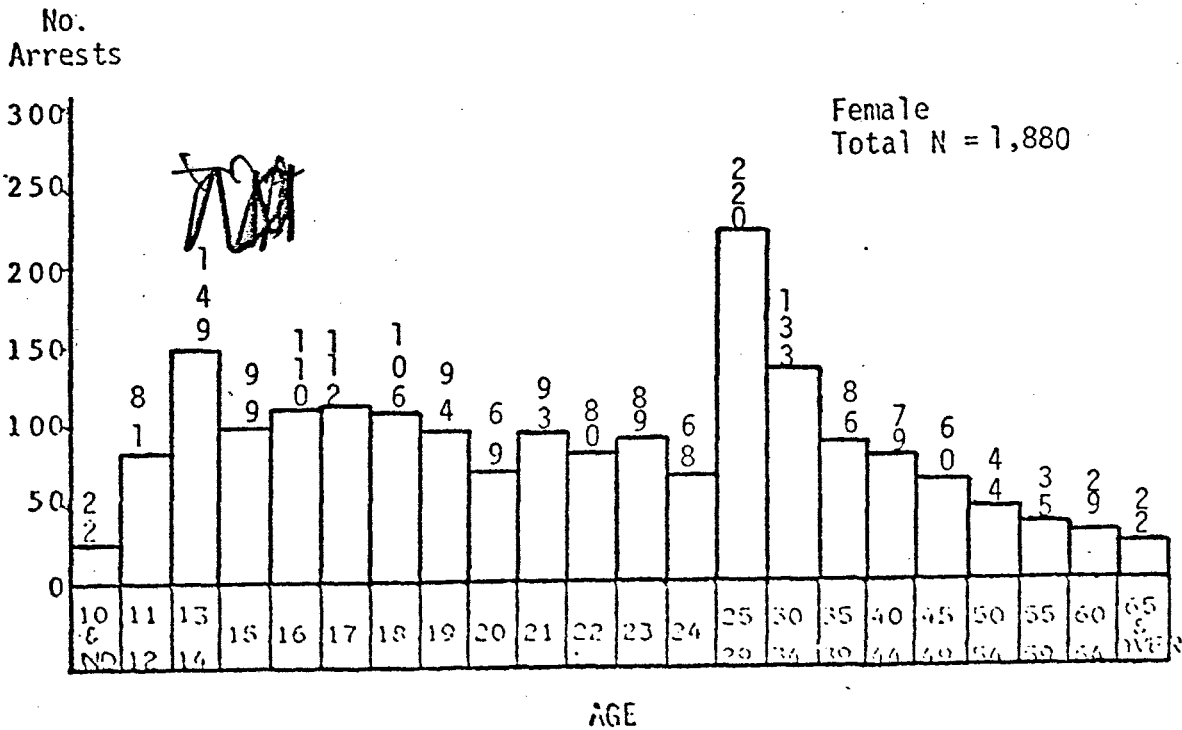
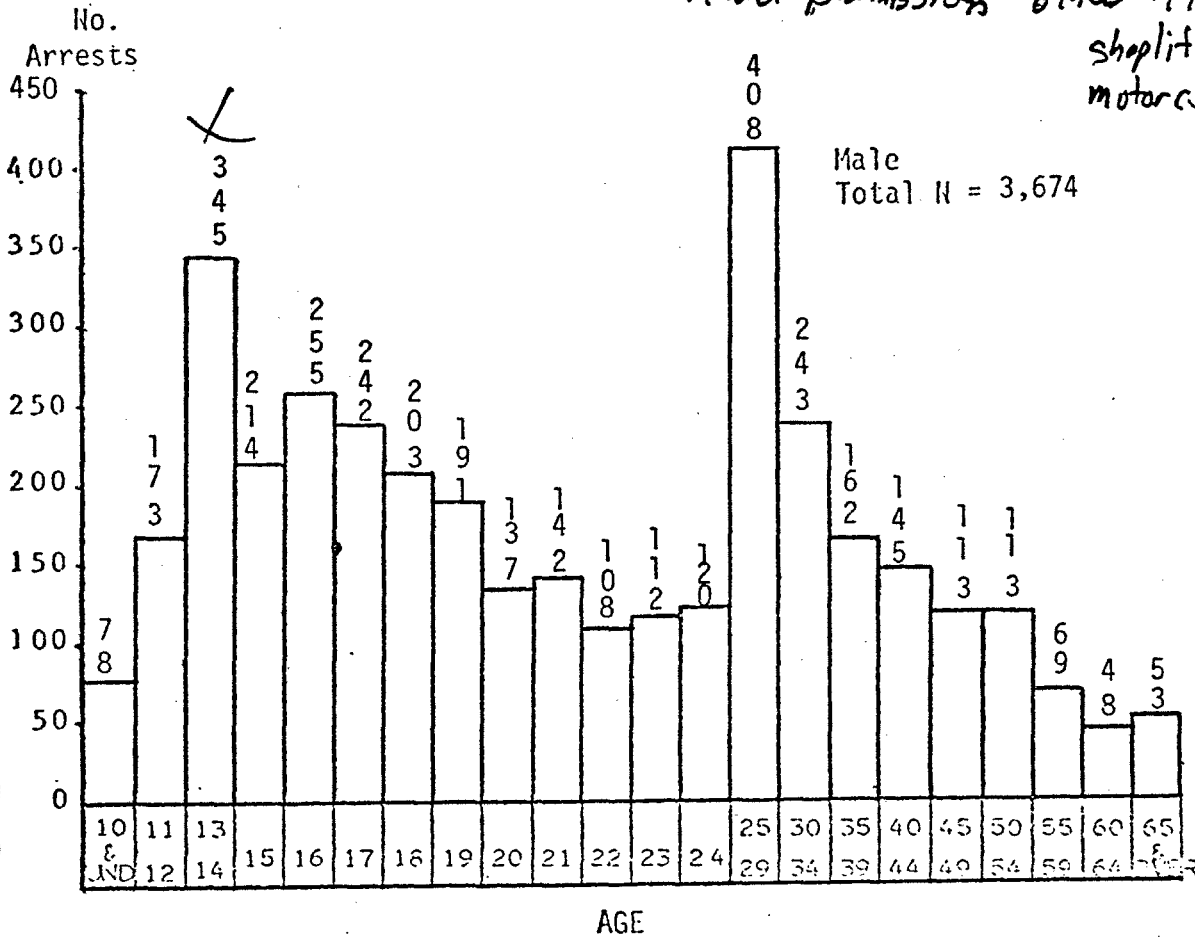
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ARRESTS FOR LARCENY BY AGE AND SEX
1977

taking of personal property
without permission other than home
shoplifting
motorcycle

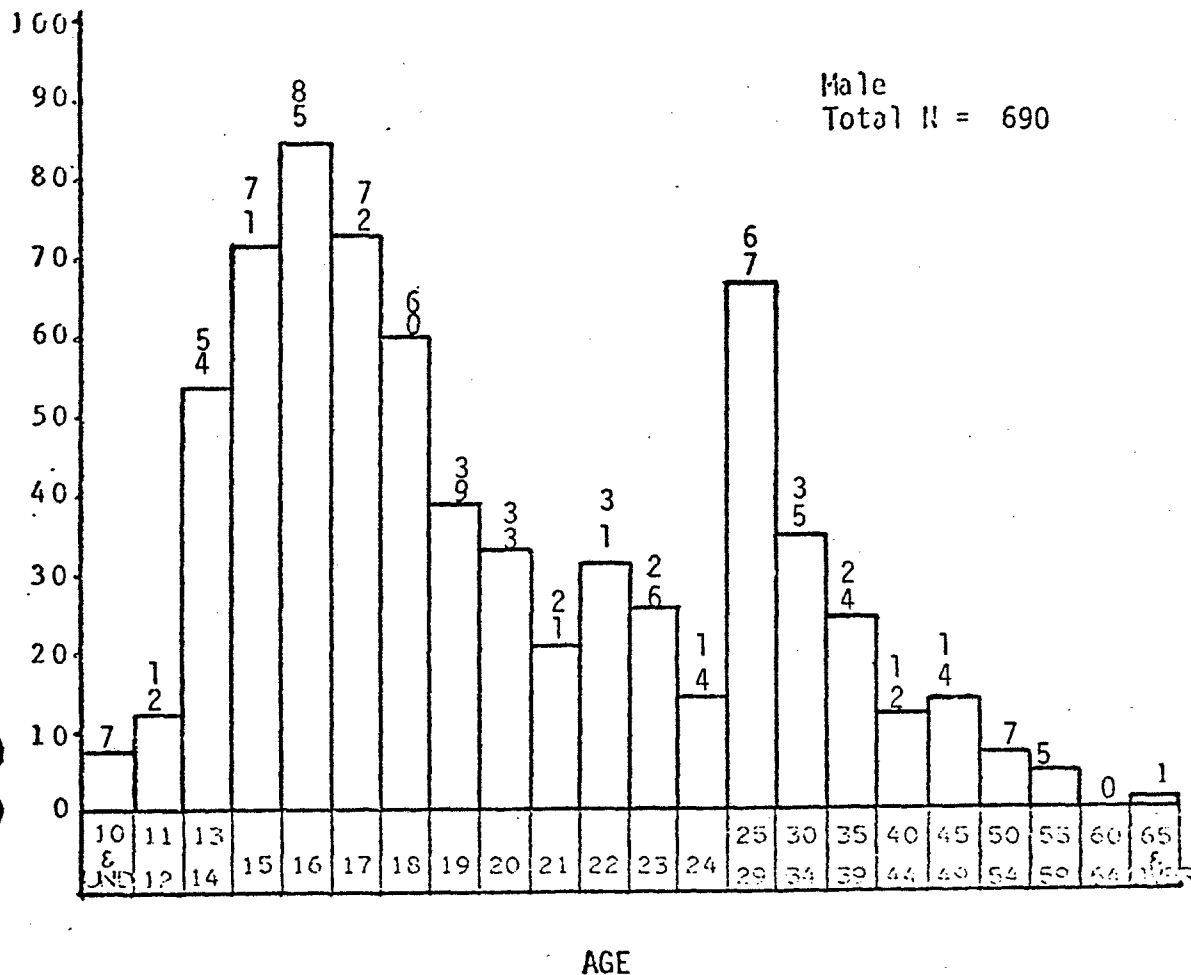


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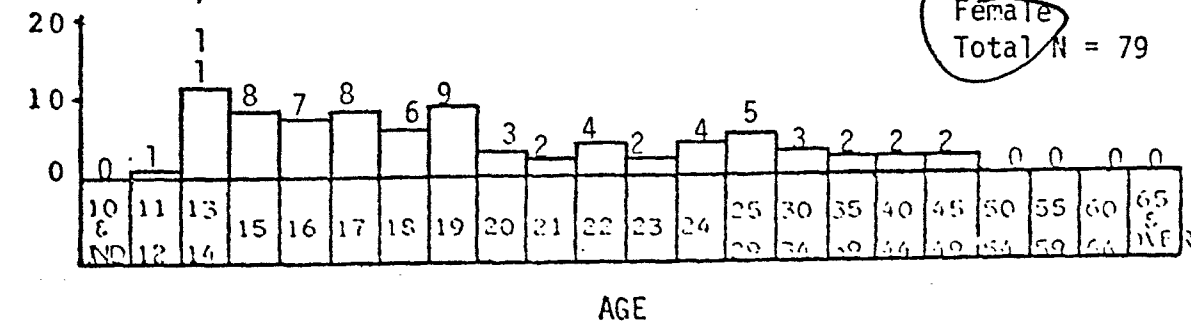
ARRESTS FOR MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT BY AGE AND SEX

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No. Arrests



Ranchers Locking Gates to Public Land in State

By NORMAN CARDOZA

Locked gates on private property are keeping the public out of vast tracts of the national forest in Nevada, land management officials said in Reno Friday.

Humboldt National Forest official Jack Davis said huge swaths of national forest land in the Ruby Mountains of Elko County are effectively being blocked from access by the rugged nature of their terrain and the strategic location of access roads crossing private property.

He cited one 25-mile stretch of the forest that has become virtually inaccessible to persons ranchers want to keep out, and he cited two other stretches of about 15 miles apiece, Davis said in a presentation before the state Multiple Use Advisory Committee on Public Lands.

Nor are those the only areas being blocked, Davis said that within the last few years, forest officials have taken note of 28 newly-locked gates on private roads providing access to the forest, running down the spine of the the Rubies.

And Davis and other Forest Service and U.S. Bureau of Land Management officials said the problem exists with increasing frequency throughout Nevada.

Ranchers have put up locked gates in hundreds of strategic places throughout the state, Davis said.

They have the power to keep hunters and fishermen and other forest users out, Davis said. "They are controlling use of the national forest."

A U.S. Bureau of Land Management spokesman said the bureau increasingly is facing the same problem, and that the bureau is making acquisition of public easements across public lands one of its top-priority projects during the months ahead.

Forest officials said such access always has been vulnerable, since roads to nearly all forest lands in the state must cross private lands homesteaded in the early days in the foothills where creeks and springs supply water.

Though such roads generally have been in common use for up to a century without restriction, Davis said ranchers have taken to closing them due to concern caused by increasing recreational use of the forests and traffic across their property.

Some are turning to locked gates as a solution. Closures sometimes occur too, Davis said, when the ranch changes hands and the new owner does not share the old-style willingness to allow the public to cross private property.

Such closures can affect vast areas in steep canyon country like the Rubies, where access generally follows the canyons.

In some cases, there are no lateral roads connecting them. Hence, someone wanting to visit public land in a particular canyon cannot get into it by vehicle without using any other road but the one to that canyon.

And no one has been successful in thwarting such

blockages short of acquisition of right-of-way through purchase—by condemnation, if necessary—the forest officials said.

In a high-profile Winnemucca area last case, the Forest Service is suing two property owners who last year blocked the access road to popular Willow Creek Canyon in Paradise Valley, but the outcome still is pending.

The problem is, Davis explained, that old access roads have only been assumed to be public by longstanding usage. In fact, public officials generally have not declared them as public and have not gone to the pains to obtain easements.

"Their status is uncertain," said Davis.

That leaves the way open for ranchers to close the roads, and let the public and the land management agencies fight them in court if they feel them to be wrong in doing so.

Ranch interests at the meeting said they feel that they have good reason for locking their gates when they do so, and they offered a long list of justifications.

Jack Walther, a Ruby Mountain rancher, said that, for one thing, the advent of the four-wheel-drive vehicle and its use by the public has been a bane to the rancher.

Drivers often stray from the roadway, causing ruts to begin, particularly when the soil is damp, Walther noted.

Such ruts often become eroded into deep, dangerous gullies, he said.

He recalled that one of his cows got stuck in one of them apparently while seeking water. She died "standing up," Walther said.

"We had to stop the vehicles on steep land," he said.

A bigger worry is liability, said DeMar Dahl, a rancher. He said the land management agencies will not assume the responsibility for public injury on private property, and forest officials present agreed that that generally is true.

Dahl said ranchers have suggested a list of 15 requirements to be met by the public land agencies as conditions for allowing access, including such safety and control improvements as fencing, bridging, and grading, but he said the agencies have not agreed to them.

John Criswell, Forest Service regional purchase and evaluation officer from Ogden, said legal ramifications are such that most of the "requirements" can't be met.

The ranchers also complained that their fences are sometimes cut or run through by hunters, and that forest officials sometimes have displayed arrogance in their negotiations with ranchers for access.

Dahl told the group that most ranchers still are allowing access if the person wanting to get in asks permission. "Most owners don't want to keep people out," he said.

He said that many ranchers still even allow the public to use their private property on request. "But they do want some control," he said.

Hunter trespass concerns central Oregon stockmen

Central Oregon stockmen seriously concerned about criminal trespass by hunters brought their case to the State Board of Agriculture in Bend this week.

Terming the present farmer-hunter situation "potentially explosive," representatives of several county livestock associations said that they have noticed an increase in violence—or threats of violence—by hunters and others who have been challenged by the owners of posted land.

After hearing the testimony, members of the board agreed to examine all issues related to damage and trespass on agricultural lands when the panel meets

again this spring.

Martin Howard, a livestock producer in Prineville and chairman of the State Livestock and Marketing Board, said that stockman associations are concerned and are proposing new legislation which would require the surrender of a

hunting license for five years by any hunter convicted of a criminal trespass.

Howard said that documented violence against stockmen—as well as threats at gunpoint—seemed to be on the increase this past season.

"Some people think that just because they have a license and tag that they can hunt absolutely anywhere," he said.

Agriculture Director Leonard Kunzman told board members that he was deeply concerned about the problem, especially about a

recent incident in which an Oregon rancher was so severely beaten with his own rifle that the stock was broken in the assault. The producer was beaten by two hunters whom he challenged on his own land—and was hospitalized for two weeks for treatment of serious injuries.

Kunzman said that he and the department staff would confer with officials of the Department of Fish and Wildlife and other agencies to prepare a full package on the trespass and land-damage problem for the board's next session.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO A.C.R. 37

SUMMARY--Directs legislative commission to study problem of access of sportsmen to and across [public land over] private land, incentives to landowners and related problems. (BDR)

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION--Directing the legislative commission to study the problem of access of sportsmen to [public land over] and across private land, incentives to landowners and related problems.

WHEREAS, [Over] Nearly 87 percent of the land in this state is [owned] controlled by the Federal Government; and

WHEREAS, Access to that land often requires travel over privately owned land; and

WHEREAS, Much of the most productive hunting, fishing and other recreational lands are in private ownership; and

WHEREAS, Many private landowners have refused access to and across their land to sportsmen because of the damage some sportsmen have caused to their property; and

WHEREAS, The acts of property damage should be condemned and the landowners compensated for the damage; and

WHEREAS, Landowners who permit access to and across their lands to sportsmen should be given incentives to continue to allow such access; and

WHEREAS, The several federal and state agencies which have responsibilities in these areas have expressed a desire to cooperate and expend funds to assist in solving the land-owner/sportsmen problems; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That the legislative commission is hereby directed to study the problems of access of sportsmen to [public land over] and across privately owned land, property damage,

incentives to landowners (such as limited property damage reimbursement, tax rebate, relief of liability, limited reimbursement for damages done by game animals to crops, and deer tag coupons which may be redeemed by the landowner upon whose land the deer is taken) and any other related problem the legislative commission determines exists between private landowners and sportsmen; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the results of the study and any recommendations for legislation be reported to the 61st session of the legislature.



STATE OF NEVADA
STATE MULTIPLE USE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL LANDS

201 S. FALL STREET, ROOM 120
CAPITOL COMPLEX
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89710

March 2, 1979

Committee Members

- JULIAN C. SMITH, Jr., Chairman
Nevada Association of County Commissioners
- WAYNE T. MILLER, Vice Chairman
Railroads and Utilities
- FRED D. GIBSON, Jr.
Advisory Mining Board
- MARVIN A. EINERWOLD
State Board of Fish and Game Commissioners
- (Mrs.) ANNE ANDERSON
State Park Advisory Commission
- PAUL A. RICHARDS
Sportsmen
- JOE McDONALD
Off-Road Vehicle Enthusiasts
- (Mrs.) ANN ZORN
Environmental Commission
- DEMAR DAHL
State Grazing Boards
- W. PETERSON
State Conservation Commission
- W. SCHOFF
Nevada League of Cities
- ROBERT E. WRIGHT, Jr.
Board of Agriculture
- (Mrs.) SAMMYE UGALDE
Land Use Planning Advisory Council
- PETER MORROS, Secretary

Andy Grose
Research Division
Legislative Counsel Bureau

Dear Andy:

On January 12, 1979, the State Multiple Use Advisory Committee on Federal Lands received testimony from various private interests and government entities on the issue of crossing of private lands for public lands access. As a result of this discussion, the Multiple Use Advisory Committee has adopted an official Recommendation on this issue. We are hereby forwarding a copy of that Recommendation to you for your information and/or action.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Erickson
Acting Secretary

REE/cr

Attachment

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N

PUBLIC ACCESS ROADS

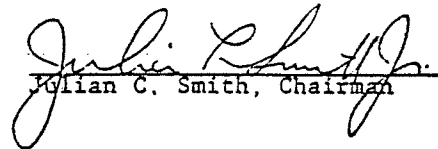
WHEREAS, in Nevada, private land is frequently located along streams and across roads used to reach public lands that are most suitable for recreational purposes; and

WHEREAS, owners of private land have traditionally permitted the public to use roads through their land as an accommodation; and

WHEREAS, owners of private land occasionally withdraw their permission to the public to use roads through their lands; and

WHEREAS, this problem becomes quite involved with many issues, from individual property rights on one side to the right of the public to have access to public lands on the other side;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Nevada State Multiple Use Advisory Committee on Federal Lands that the Nevada Legislature consider tabling proposed legislation concerning this subject and authorize a two-year interim study involving input from private property owners, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, Fish and Game Department, and all other interested parties.


Julian C. Smith, Chairman

Adopted February 24, 1979

CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT



2832 EAST FLAMINGO ROAD LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89121 TELEPHONE (702) 736-5011

April 23, 1979

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

Dr. James Lyman, President
Mrs. Janet Sobel, Vice President
Mr. Donald R. Faiss, Clerk
Mrs. Helen C. Cannon, Member
Mrs. Virginia Brooks Brewster, Member
Mr. Robert Forbuss, Member
Mr. Thomas Semmens, Member
Dr. Claude G. Perkins, Superintendent

State Senators and State Assemblymen
The Nevada State Legislature
Carson City, Nevada 89701

I am an elected representative from District A of the Clark County School Board. I have been refused the privilege of attending the Legislature by my fellow Board members, because I intended to speak to a minority position of the Board.

I have been told that State law requires the Board to approve travel for all Board members; and since it was known I would be speaking to a minority rather than a majority position of the Board, I have been refused the right to travel except at my own expense. This decision was made by the President of the Board, Dr. James Lyman, and our Superintendent of Schools, and was done without formal action of the Board at a regularly scheduled Board meeting.

I am not elected at-large. I am elected in a District which, at the present time prior to the new census, has the second most number of constituents among the seven Board members. If I was a member of the Carson City School Board, this would, of course, not be a problem, and my freedom of speech and my ability to support my people would not be diminished, for I could simply walk over to the building and express my people's views. The people that I serve duly elected me and financially support the school district with their fair share.

As long as I do not misrepresent the majority position of the Board, I think it is entirely repressive and disenfranchising for a majority of the Board to prevent a minority opinion from speaking.

It is interesting that the very issue I will be addressing the Legislature on--at my own expense--centers around the ability of the normal structure to provide an effective means to serve all of the many citizens. I think it is obvious that the very structure of the school district and the laws under which it operates leave a lot to be desired.

Janet Sobel
(Mrs.) Janet Sobel, Vice President
Board of School Trustees

JS:bmr

RE: STUDY TO CREATE SMALLER SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

Statement made by Janet Sobel to Assembly Committee on Legislative Functions
on Tuesday, April 24, 1979.

I am Janet Sobel and I am speaking to you as the elected representative from District A of the Clark County School Board and not in my capacity as Vice President of the Board. Thank you for this opportunity to address you and urge your support of this resolution.

The Clark County School Board, by a vote of four to two, has already decided to oppose this resolution and my comments here are to serve as an expression of a minority opinion of that Board.

I am here to voice the concern of many that the Clark County School District has grown too large to effectively serve parents and children, too far removed from the people who pay the bills to respond meaningfully to their concerns, and so preoccupied with efficiencies designed to deal with the mythical average that we have lost sight of the mission.

I am not here to offer a specific plan whereby the school district can be effectively divided. I am here to ask you, who control the size and structure of our school district, to study the alternatives in depth.

Traditionally, schools are something which can and should remain close to the people; for education is a "people" business. The Clark County School District has grown to be the 26th largest in the entire nation. It is by far the largest in Nevada, and yet is below the State average in achievement scores.

Isn't it time to reassess the reasons for consolidating the Clark County School District in the first place over 20 years ago? Why wait until we grow to 180,000 or 300,000 students?

If a parent in Henderson is unhappy with the education of his third grader, he must appeal his problem to a central administrator who oversees 72 elementary schools. His Henderson identify and concerns are immediately lost to an average population. If he then calls the superintendent, he is possibly referred back to the previous central office administrator. If he calls his Board member, then he only has one representative out of seven to voice his concerns.

Parents at Tomiyasu Elementary School were recently told by the Board that their wishes could not be met, because parents in other parts of the County might be resentful.

The Clark County School Board is opposing this study and the major reason given was fiscal efficiency.

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April 24, 1979
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Well, I for one would need to have demonstrated, through a study, the amount of fiscal efficiency and then have that savings weighed against the other obvious advantages of smaller districts. It is likely that parents would rather forgo the fiscal efficiencies and settle for the greater input and higher achievement rates of Nevada's smaller districts.

If "big is better," then why not combine Carson City, Douglas County, and Washoe County into one large district, which would really be very little different than the Clark County School District.

If "big is better," then why not have one State school district which would be even smaller than just doubling the size of the Clark County School District--which Clark County will probably do on its own anyway in the not too distant future.

I think that the people believe that "big is not better." And now, more than ever before, as we face tax cuts and reduced budgets, we must reevaluate "bigness" and its ability to serve our citizens.

A taxpayer who voted for Question 6 recently told me that she did so because she felt we had arrived at a point of taxation without representation.

Government services grow so large that citizens cannot find effective channels through which to communicate to their elected officials. Our Federal bureaucracy is, of course, the extreme example. Federal spending has clearly gotten out of control.

But our local efforts are equally frustrating. This Legislature is obviously attempting to curb government spending. But that is only a partial solution which may create severe problems if we are not careful. The reduced budgets that each entity will now face will have to be spent so much more wisely than ever before. Each agency will have to set priorities with great care, responding in a relevant way to the needs of the people. This will require much closer contact with the people whose money we are spending. There will continue to be no way for 300,000 people to communicate their wishes to seven school board members. When a school district has adequate funds to meet all the needs, everything is fine. But when we must start cutting programs, "good communications" becomes the key to avoiding disaster. The way in which Boulder City may choose to spend its limited funds might be very different from Henderson's choices.

Last January the Clark County School Board adopted a position to oppose any legislation which would diminish local control of our schools; and yet they oppose this study. It is strangely inconsistent.

There are obvious ways to create smaller school districts and still have financial equality. There are also obvious solutions short of separate districts. They are worthy of study.

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Many educators have told me that they feel that this study would be the most significant piece of legislation of any recent session.

And only you, not my local Board, have the power to change our structure.

Mr. Robert Forbuss, my fellow Board member who led the opposition to this study, submitted many arguments which amounted to his conducting the study by himself. I respect and admire Mr. Forbuss, but I must comment that much of his information was inaccurate and many of his conclusions faulty. I would caution anyone who would accept three typed pages of unsubstantiated statistics in lieu of a careful, thorough study of all the alternatives to an obvious problem.

As the Trustee who represents Henderson and Boulder City as a part of my area, and who, therefore, stands to lose my own position on the Board should this study prove fruitful, I consider myself most unbiased in my plea to you.

I would welcome the restructuring of our school district if it would free our children--and my children--from the mediocrity and facelessness of a large bureaucracy. Let Los Angeles, New York, and Chicago have their large school districts--Nevada can do better.

JS:bmr

CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT



2832 EAST FLAMINGO ROAD LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89121 TELEPHONE (702) 736-5011

April 5, 1979

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

Dr. James Lyman, President
Mrs. Janet Sobel, Vice President
Mr. Donald R. Falss, Clerk
Mrs. Helen C. Cannon, Member
Mrs. Virginia Brooks Brewster, Member
Mr. Robert Forbuss, Member
Mr. Thomas Semmens, Member
Dr. Claude G. Perkins, Superintendent

Dear Fellow Board Members, Administrative Staff, Teachers,
and Citizens:

I have asked that this Assembly Resolution 23 be placed on today's agenda for discussion. I would first like to say that Assembly Resolution 23 is based on several presumptions that I feel are fallacious and inaccurate.

The resolution suggests that the Clark County School District does not meet the needs of people and, therefore, it can only be assumed that they are talking about students and parents. Each year the Division of Elementary Education conducts parental surveys for the purposes of gaining information about parental and student attitudes about their educational system.

I call your attention to Attachment No. 1, Parent Questionnaire:

As you can see, over the past years the majority of parents in the Clark County School District have indicated a very high degree of satisfaction with the performance of the Clark County School District.

Since the local school level is the basic communication arm of the Board of School Trustees, it would appear that the policies of the board are well-communicated.

It is suggested by the resolution that parents need more involvement in curriculum and planning. I would suggest that the recent parental involvement in minimum competency testing repudiates this assumption.

Additionally, parental involvement has been advocated at all levels of curriculum development and the recent action of this board to increase the requirements for graduation as suggested by Richard Bryan's Sub-Committee is another example of parent involvement in the curriculum.

Moreover, a further false assumption is that the administrative organization is too large for good communication when, in fact, the Clark County School District has 60 per cent fewer central administrators per child than the national norm has indicated by the Educational Research Services.

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The third assumption in this resolution is that the district is frequently less efficient in the delivery of services. Normally, efficiency is tied to the cost of operation and, therefore, the Clark County School District should be cited as probably the only district in the state where a \$10,000,000 food service program is totally self-supporting except for facilities. Additionally, our lunch program prices have not increased significantly in four years even with the awesome inflation that we're faced with on a day to day basis. It should also be made clear to the proponents of this resolution that the size of this district has reduced the cost of government significantly.

Consider the following:

1. Central purchasing has allowed this district to save between 8 and 10 per cent annually for items needed to run the district.
2. Architectural plans are replicated by the district which saves on architectural fees each time a new school is built.
3. Unemployment funds where the district uses retrospective compensation instead of the usual premium payments to the employment security commission, saves the district approximately \$1,000,000 per year. This same approach is used with the Nevada Industrial Commission where the district saves up to \$400,000 per year.
4. Because of the districts size, our health insurance premiums are substantially reduced because of split-funding, which could save the school district over a \$1,000,000 per year.
5. Energy conservation by this school district through the use of the computer has saved the taxpayers \$450,000 just last year.
6. Finally, the district has been able to earn \$2,000,000 for school use because of efficient financial management through investment.

The administrative cost of the Clark County School District is less than 3 per cent, which is the lowest in the State of Nevada. It should be obvious to the proponents of Assembly Resolution 23 that if other districts are created, the administrative cost will soon soar because of certain requirements for any district to function, i.e. supervisors, supervisory personnel.

Furthermore, splitting Clark County into smaller school districts could produce the same effect as before 1956 when the school district consolidated. For example, the assessed evaluation per student in the county is unequal in different sections of the community (Henderson - \$14,654, Las Vegas - \$18,798, Overton - \$6,075, N. Las Vegas - \$12,691, Winchester - \$58,289, Paradise - \$44,156.)

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Additionally, school districts need money to build facilities. That money is provided by bonding efforts. If the bonding capability for one area is substantially less than another it could create an unequal educational opportunity in this county.

Another tremendous consideration that is not addressed in Assembly Resolution 23 is the question of integration. Integration in the Clark County School District came about through a series of very complex court proceedings and appeals, which even went as far as the Supreme Court of the United States. The Clark County School District was finally ordered to desegregate the district involving the predominantly black schools in West Las Vegas. The court found the district guilty of building schools in West Las Vegas that perpetuated racial segregation. The court finally approved the sixth grade center plans as developed by the district. This year the Clark County School District was cited as having a positive workable integration plan by the United States Civil Rights Commission. Integration is a very delicate matter in this community and one that subjects us to federal control. We should be very careful when considering splitting up this district.

In the case of Wilmington, Delaware, in 1977, the United States Supreme Court ruled that Wilmington, Delaware, must create a unified consolidated school district which would facilitate a desegregation plan. That case held that where the state has contributed to the segregation of races by the re-drawing of school lines, necessarily the districts on both sides of the lines are in violation and can result in inter-district segregation between suburban and city schools.

Therefore, the probability of recreating another integration problem becomes very real when one considers splitting up the Clark County School District.

In summary, I would like to say:

1. Most parents are satisfied with the education program being offered by the Clark County School District.
2. The cost per pupil in the district is low when compared with other districts in the state and in the nation.
3. The relative wealth of geographic areas in the county would foster unequal educational opportunity if this district were split up.
4. Administrative costs would increase significantly as well as the cost of procuring goods and services to run each separate school district.
5. The integration program could be traumatically aggravated and could lead to more federal intervention and control.

PARENT OPINIONNAIRE
Elementary Schools - K - 6
Clark County School District

(5PT. SCALE)

<u>Item</u>	<u>1977-78</u> <u>Mean</u>	<u>1978-79</u> <u>Mean</u>
1. My child seems to enjoy school this year.	4.496	4.493
2. The principal seems available and willing to help.	4.216	4.219
3. I am kept well informed regarding school objectives, programs and procedures.	4.396	4.406
4. The parent-teacher conferences I have attended have been valuable.	4.580	4.587
5. The office personnel at the school are understanding and helpful.	4.383	4.388
6. The school provides appropriate ways for me to be involved and helpful in my child's school experiences.	4.271	4.282
7. The school program encourages my child to learn as much as he can.	4.414	4.434
8. Teachers deal with my child in a positive way.	4.522	4.534
9. There is good student discipline at the school.	4.210	4.222
10. The school has an effective organized parent group.	3.884	3.889
11. Teachers keep me well informed about how my child is doing in school.	4.451	4.462
12. The teachers use effective methods and materials to help my child learn.	4.450	4.457
13. The school buildings and grounds appear clean and well maintained.	4.436	4.462
14. Convenient means are provided for parents to express their opinion and suggestions regarding the school.	4.192	4.204
Note: Maximum number of parents responding =	11,028	12,333