

MINUTES

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE - 60th SESSION

April 16, 1979

Chairman Mello called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Mello, Vice-Chairman Bremner, Mr. Barengo, Mrs. Cavnar, Mr. Glover, Mr. Hickey, Mr. Mann, Mr. Rhoads, Mr. Vergiels, Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Webb.

ALSO PRESENT: Bill Bible, Fiscal Analyst; Judy Matteucci, Deputy Fiscal Analyst; Mark Stevens, Budget Office; Mr. Tom Ross, Vice-Chairman Board of Regents; Dr. Don Baepler, Chancellor, University of Nevada; Mr. Bill Morris, Dr. Brock Dixon, Acting President at UNLV; Mr. Jack Petitti, County Commissioner, Clark County; Dr. Joe Crowley, President of UNR; Mr. Bruno Menicucci, Mayor of Reno; Mr. Jud Allen, Chairman of Reno-Sparks Chamber of Commerce; Mr. Ted Sanders, Superintendent of Public Instruction; Mr. Hal Smith, Burrows, Smith and Company; Mr. Paul Strickland, Graduate Student's Association - UNR; Mr. Bob Hill, State Planning Coordinator; Dr. David Smith, Fairgrounds Foundation. See attached Guest list.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to adopt the Minutes of March 9 and 12, 1979, made by Mr. Vergiels, seconded by Mr. Mann. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to adopt the Minutes of March 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, and 29, 1979, made by Mr. Vergiels; seconded by Mr. Rhoads.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to adopt the Minutes of April 3, 4, 5, 1979, made by Mr. Mann; seconded by Mrs. Cavnar. Motion carried unanimously.

AB 63

Mr. Tom Ross, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Regents, stated that he was in support of Amendment 552 to AB 63; and introduced Dr. Don Baepler, Chancellor, University of Nevada.

Dr. Baepler said that AB 612 of the 1977 Legislative Session authorized "campus special event centers" at UNLV and UNR and provided for their funding. He explained that 85% of the scheduled events to be held in the proposed "special event centers" are non-athletic in nature. Dr. Baepler stated that the 1977 Assembly passed AB 612 by a vote of 40 to 0; the Senate also passed the bill, however, did not specifically authorize the two projects as some members feared that it may hurt the chance of Congress approving additional slot machine tax rebate money.

Dr. Baepler stated that AB 612 made the funding of the "centers" specifically contingent upon Congressional legislation increasing the Federal slot tax rebate to Nevada from 80 to 95%.

Dr. Baepler noted that in 1978 Congress passed SB 98 that provided that the amount of Federal slot machine tax rebated to the State of Nevada be increased to 95% for 1978-79 and 1979-80 and then the tax shall be repealed entirely effective July 1, 1980, leaving the entire amount available to the State.

Dr. Baepler pointed out that AB 63, establishes a State annual tax of \$250 per licensed slot machine; such tax to become effective upon the

effective date of the repeal of the Federal tax. He said that AB 63, as amended, also sets the formula for the division of the proceeds between the University and the State Public School Distributive Fund.

Mr. Mann asked what was the current income from the slot machine tax rebate.

Dr. Baepler said that during 1978-79, based on the 95% rebate, the income from the rebate tax is \$17,337,000. He said that in 1980-81, \$19.9 million is expected from the tax.

Mr. Mann asked that, if as a result of this income, the University capital improvement program will receive a higher amount than the normal 50/50 distribution with the State Distributive Fund.

Dr. Baepler explained that in 1971 when these funds became available, the University received \$5 million and the State Distributive Fund received just over \$3 million. He indicated that from the beginning, it was never intended to be a 50/50 distribution. He noted that it was initially set up as a construction fund for the University system; however, today the Distributive Fund receives more money than the Capital Improvement Fund. Dr. Baepler indicated that AB 63 will return the fund distribution to a 50/50 basis by the end of 1980. He pointed out that since 1971 the fund has increased at a rate of 11% a year and at a projected 5% yearly increase by the year 2000, another \$50 million will be generated.

Mr. Bill Morris presented the Committee with a letter from Senator Paul Laxalt in which he expressed the importance of the passage AB 63 with amendments, noting that his principal motivation in working for the passage of the bill in Congress was the fact that the first projects to be funded were the "special event centers" at UNR and UNLV. Senator Laxalt's statements further indicated that failure to pass AB 63 could likely result in the U. S. Treasury Department, or some other agency or group, introducing a bill to again establish the Federal Tax. (Exhibit "A")

Dr. Brock Dixon, Acting President at UNLV, noted the serious situation at UNLV and the great need for the "center" for continuing education and special events. He detailed for the Committee the conditions that exist because the demand for tickets to UNLV basketball games exceeds the supply. He pointed out that there are approximately 15,000 Continuing Education students enrolled in 600 courses, yet no classroom space is available on the campus. He reiterated the need for a large facility to house any large gathering of students. (Exhibit "B")

Mr. Jack Petitti, County Commissioner from Clark County and Chairman of the Las Vegas Convention Center, indicated that the Las Vegas Convention Authority and the economy of Clark County will benefit from the new facility at UNLV as it will serve as an auxiliary facility for large convention groups that would require a meeting hall larger than the 6,000 seat rotunda in the present Convention Center. He noted that significant tourist income and resulting tax revenue has been lost because of the inability of the Convention Center to accommodate the large number of fans wishing to accompany basketball teams coming to Las Vegas to play the Rebels.

Mr. Petitti hoped that more foresight and concern about Clark County's future will be used in building the "center" than was used when the existing Convention Center was built in the 1950's. (Exhibit "C")

Mr. Petitti referred to a letter from Mr. Gene Stephens, Director of Facilities from the Las Vegas Convention Authority to Mr. Bill Ireland, Director of Athletics at UNLV in which Mr. Stephens stresses the availability of dates for the UNLV basketball season during the 1980-81 season is critical. (Exhibit "D")

Dr. Joe Crowley, President of UNR, stated that the "center" to be built at UNR will be a multi-purpose facility designed to serve both athletic and cultural events. He noted that the population growth in the area, as well as the basketball program, produces a greater demand for game tickets. (Exhibit "E")

Mrs. Wagner asked if the University activities would have precedence in using the "center" and what percentage of the time would be utilized in community based programs.

Dr. Crowley said that the University projects 180 "event days" per year and one-half of those days would be used in community projects or joint uses by the University and the public.

Mrs. Wagner asked how the proposed facility at UNR would be used for continuing education.

Dr. Crowley responded that there are several conference rooms in the new "center" that will be used for continuing education programs.

Mrs. Wagner asked for an explanation of the difference between the \$26 million projected cost to build the center in the amendment, and the \$21 million estimated cost in the feasibility study.

Dr. Crowley indicated that the \$21 million estimate did not include the development cost or the cost of purchasing the land.

Mrs. Wagner asked if the University revenue support during the inaugural years, as mentioned in the feasibility study, would be included in the \$26 million projected total cost.

Mr. Ross said that there will be a Community Committee developed to assist in filling the facility on non-University days, but it will probably take a year to realize full utilization of the facility. He noted there will be no more money expended than is presently spent on non-University facilities.

Chairman Mello asked if the \$26 million estimated figure for the construction of the "center" at UNR would result in a totally complete facility.

Dr. Baepler stated that the projected construction cost figures for both UNR and UNLV would be enough to complete the facilities.

Mr. Mann asked how the two facilities differ.

Dr. Baepler explained that the "center" at UNLV seats 18,000 people and has a large area for continuing education including administrative offices, classrooms, conference rooms and kitchen facilities. Dr. Baepler continued that the "center" at UNR includes a basketball arena that seats 16,000, about 50 offices for the athletic personnel, a convertible rotunda and separate practice gymnasium.

Mr. Bruno Menicucci, Mayor, City of Reno, stated that Reno is in favor of the "center" and the passage of AB 63. He noted that a tendency in the State of Nevada is to under-plan and not look beyond the immediate 3-5 year period but this facility will provide an opportunity to plan ahead. (EXHIBIT F)

Mr. Glover asked Mayor Menicucci if the proposed 16,000 seat facility is an example of under-planning.

Mayor Menicucci said that the key to the proposed facility is that they have planned for additional seating when and if it becomes necessary.

Mr. Glover asked why the "center" in Las Vegas has only an additional 2,000 seats when the population in Southern Nevada is so much larger.

Dr. Baepler said that a 20,000 seating capacity was considered at UNLV, but that with the 18,000 seating capacity a better balance of demand and availability of tickets is obtained and will provide the financing for the program.

Mr. Mann asked why, considering the rising construction costs, a minimum seating capacity facility is being built rather than a "center" to seat 20,000.



Dr. Baepler indicated that 18,000 seats triples the existing seating capacity and after studying the situation for several years, the 18,000 capacity is considered economically feasible in terms of total budget.

Mr. Mann asked what the cost difference is between the 18,000 seats and a 21,000 seat facility.

Dr. Baepler stated that an additional \$2 million would be needed to increase the seating capacity to 21,000.

Chairman Mello asked if the \$30 million projected construction cost is high.

Dr. Baepler said that the total cost of building the facility would be less than \$30 million.

Chairman Mello asked for an explanation of the bonding procedure.

Dr. Baepler responded that the slot machine tax money is put into a single fund to meet the cash flow and bonding needs of the academic facilities at a rate of \$5 million per year plus the need for bonding for these two facilities. He noted that the \$20 million over the next 4 years that goes into the academic programs and the cost of the two structures and fund them out of the joint ability to bond and cash flow.

Mr. Jud Allen, Chairman of the Reno-Sparks Chamber of Commerce, stated that the Reno-Sparks Chamber of Commerce totally supports the proposed facility at UNR. He indicated that a closer relationship will result between the community and the University because of the new levels of participation because of the "center."

Chairman Mello noted that a close working relationship can be achieved between the University and the community when there is cooperation from both sides.

Dr. Baepler pointed out that the Hamm Concert Hall in Las Vegas is an example of good cooperation between the University and the community.

Mr. Ted Sanders, Superintendent of Public Instruction, said that as a representative of the State Board of Education, he sees no problem with AB 63 to the schools of Nevada because the slot tax is only one of several revenue sources to the Distributive School Fund.

He noted that if any of these revenue sources in the past has failed to reach their expected levels, one or more of the others has exceeded estimates. There has not been a need to request supplemental appropriations to the Distributive School Fund although this would be a means of funding state responsibility to the fund if total revenue should fail to meet the projections in a given year.

Mr. Hal Smith, Burrows, Smith and Company, financial consultants to the University of Nevada, said that Amendment 522 will provide all the essentials to continuing support of bonds debt service.

Chairman Mello asked Mr. Smith if he thought there was a need for a court case.

Mr. Smith responded that in the revenue special fund doctrine there is no case in Nevada that has been determined. The revenues are not a result of the operation of the facilities; they are revenues generated by a gaming tax. He indicated that a court case is essential prior to the sale of the bonds; in fact, the bond counsel has stated that he will not render an opinion until such a case has been determined. Mr. Smith noted that Utah has a limited doctrine, Colorado has an expanded one, New Mexico has a very liberal one and Nevada has none at all.

Chairman Mello asked how the proposed \$56 million for the construction of the two facilities at UNR and UNLV coincide with the current capital improvement programs for higher education.



Dr. Baepler said that the \$5 million per year as scheduled in the University's capital improvement request will be available for the other projects either from cash flow, interest earned on the bond proceeds which will be invested during the construction phase 1 and from bonding.

Mr. Smith said that the \$56 million is necessary in hand to meet the contractual requirements. However, to carry out the 4 year program will require a bond issue of approximately \$60 million which requires \$5,757,000 annually in debt service but leaves \$4,242,000 in cash that can be spent and provides 1.75 coverage on the bond issue.

Mr. Paul Strickland, Graduate Students' Association - UNR, stated that he is in favor of a modification of the bill and does not speak for the administration. He suggested that instead of ear-marking all the 15% slot tax rebate to capital construction, that 7 1/2% should be allocated to a new special fund to maintain the library collections at UNR and UNLV and the various Community College centers, as well as to maintain or add to faculty positions at those institutions.

He indicated that the construction of the two costly sports complexes are not as urgent priorities as insuring quality instruction and continued good library resources.

Chairman Mello asked Mr. Strickland which complex he would recommend cutting out under his proposed 7 1/2% split of the 15% tax rebate.

Mr. Strickland indicated that perhaps the funding could be at a lower rate or the size of the facilities be cut back.

Chairman Mello pointed out that although there is a population growth increase, the enrollment at the University is declining.

Mr. Mann noted that under Mr. Strickland's proposed plan, the entire fund could be lost based on the commitment made to the United States Congress that the tax rebate be used for capital improvements.

Mr. Barengo pointed out that Congress indicated the money was to be used for higher education, but did not specifically state for what purpose.

Mr. Mann said that his understanding was that the original agreement on the distribution of the tax rebate was to be used for capital improvement and would be in jeopardy if it was put to any other use.

#### AB 451

Mr. Bob Hill, State Planning Coordinator, noted that the western states are growing at a rate more than double that of non-western states, and that Nevada has the distinction of having the greatest percentage of increase. The impact of the growth on energy, land resources, social services, schools and water makes it imperative that the State analyze, anticipate and prepare for change.

Mr. Hill indicated a willingness on the part of Nevadans to join in a unified effort to examine the future of the State and to develop in a unified effort to examine the future of the State and to develop appropriate management strategies and make recommendations for their implementation. A process to accomplish this goal must include: (1) active participation of all Nevadans, (2) the support and participation of government at all levels, (3) include the active participation of business and industry, and (4) the best expertise available must be involved in the process.

Mr. Hill said that the Commission on the Future of Nevada has a capability far exceeding that of the State Planning Coordinator's Office. It is a concentrated 18 month effort that will terminate in December 1980.

Mr. Hill noted that AB 451 has the support of the Washoe Council of Governments, Carson River Basin Council of Governments, State County Commissioners Association and the Nevada League of Cities.

Chairman Mello asked if the proposed Commission on the future of Nevada can do without any State money.

Mr. Hill said that if no State funds were available that authorization would be needed to receive an additional amount of Federal monies.

Mr. Mark Stevens, Budget Office, said that at this point there are no funds other than EDA funds which could be matched with in-kind combinations.

He said that with Legislative authorization, the State Planning Coordinator's office could seek additional Federal funds.

Chairman Mello asked why local communities do not contribute some money.

Mr. Hill said that the local communities do not have the money available. Mr. Hill indicated that they were hopeful that the State funds could help to get the program started quickly.

Chairman Mello suggested a loan of State funds until the Federal monies were appropriated and then return the State portion back to the General Fund.

Mr. Hill said that after meeting with the subcommittee the bill was amended to read that at the end of the first year, the Interim Finance Committee would review the Commission's progress and decide if it should be allowed to continue for the remaining 6 months.

Mr. Hill pointed out that the first year budget was based on \$119,091; however, the subcommittee reduced the \$20,000 the first year and that put the budget below the amount required. He requested that the Committee change the \$99,091 figure to \$105,759 and the \$60,909 figure to \$54,241.

He said that basically all is being done is that an additional amount of Federal money is being requested the first year to make up the difference that was caused by splitting the 2/3 of State money.

Mr. Barengo asked if the Federal money in the amount of \$25,759 is available the first year.

Mr. Hill said it is available the first year.

Mr. Bible indicated that when the subcommittee examined the budget of the State Comprehensive Planner, it was found that there was some extra General Fund dollars within that budget that did not have a match attached to it and the possibility was that the subcommittee could go two ways: they could cut the General Fund appropriation out of AB 451 and then have the Futures Commission funded through the regular budget using those monies as a match, or they could go back to the regular budget and reduce the General Fund in that budget leaving no free General Fund dollars and that is what they chose to do.

Chairman Mello said that he thought there had been an agreement reached between the subcommittee and the administration.

Mr. Hill said that if the figures are left the way they are, \$6,000 will have to be taken out of the first year budget and put into the second year budget.

Mr. Bible said that Mr. Hill's suggestion does not change the total funding for the Commission, it just moves it into more convenient categories to get the match which the subcommittee recommended be funded on a 2/3 - 1/3 basis with the State monies.

Mr. Mann pointed out that by juggling the first year money into the second year, more money will be available the second year.

Mr. Bible indicated that the Interim Finance Committee has to release the last 1/3 of the State funding and the entire program will be contingent on that release.

Mr. Mann said that he did not like to idea of the budget being changed after a decision was made in the subcommittee.

Mr. Bible pointed out the Minutes of February 20, 1979, Item 3 of the subcommittee's recommendation is that the requested funding from the Futures Commission be approved with the stipulation that 2/3 or \$13,332 be available from the bills effective date until June 30, 1980, and the remaining funding \$6,668 be made available to the Futures Commission only after approval of the Interim Finance Committee. A similar mechanism was utilized in 1975 to provide for continuing Legislative over-sight of the construction of a half-way house in Clark County. Also the subcommittee recommended that the authorization of the Futures Commission to receive and expend non-State funds be clearly limited to those sums which were considered by the Committee in its review of the proposal.

Mrs. Wagner asked if the Federal appropriations were guaranteed.

Mr. Hill said that nothing was guaranteed, but pointed out that Nevada is the only State that is not using the EDA 302 monies for state-wide planning.

Mrs. Wagner asked how the 2/3 - 1/3 division of monies was decided upon.

Mr. Hill said that the description of how the 2/3 appropriation is being spent is detailed in the budget.

Chairman Mello stated that the State Planning Office was created several years ago by Executive order and asked what has been accomplished by that office since its inception.

Mr. Hill responded that the State Planning Coordinator's Office has been used primarily as a policy office for the Governor and for the A95 review process which takes a great deal of time reviewing grant proposals.

Mr. Hill indicated that the office should not be expanded.

He noted a big problem exists within the office in an effort to coordinate the needs of the various counties throughout the State.

Mr. Hill pointed out some requested changes to the bill. Chairman Mello asked if the changes had been discussed with the subcommittee. Mr. Hill said that the bill had not been available at that time.

Mr. Hill pointed out Line 29 of AB 451 which provides a salary of \$40.00 a day for Commission members. There are no funds available in the budget for these salaries and it was put in by Mr. Daykin and is not part of the original intent. Mr. Hill said that he would like that line deleted.

Chairman Mello asked what affect the \$40.00 a day allowance would have on the budget.

Mr. Hill said that \$8,000 that would be needed to pay the Commissioners would have to come out of some other category.

Mr. Hill recommended another amendment to Section 2, Line 18 to read: "the State Planning Coordinator shall provide necessary clerical and other personnel if reimbursed from the funds appropriated to the Governor in Section 6 and the Commission may appoint consultants and advisory committees including without limitation committees from each region to enable the Commission to carry out the duties."



Mr. Hill said that the reason for the change is that the funds are appropriated to the Governor's office according to the bill and it just makes it more specific that the funds will be available to the State Planning Coordinator to pay the clerical help. Secondly, by eliminating the language "of representatives of local government," the Commission will be able to appoint committees of consultants of all kinds.

Mr. Mann indicated that he understood from the subcommittee meetings that all clerical staff would come out of existing personnel.

Mr. Hill stated that the clerical position had always been in the budget. Mr. Bible said that it appears that the intent is to reimburse the regular budget with monies from this appropriation.

Mr. Mann said that the agreement was that the clerical staff would be from the existing clerical support.

Mr. Bible indicated that previously the clerical position in the State Planning coordinator's Office was eliminated.

Mr. Hill said that the budget that was approved included the salary of the clerk-steno position.

Mr. Bible noted that the budget for the Future of Nevada Commission carried a position of the senior clerk-steno. The budget for the State Planning Office also included a request for a new clerical position and the subcommittee cut that position.

Mr. Hill said that he has been referring to the position that will provide clerical assistance to the Commission.

Mr. Mann said that the requested position has already been provided for.

Mr. Hill pointed out "the State Planning Coordinator shall provide necessary clerical and other personnel;" but the money is going to the Governor's office and what he is trying to be established is that the money that goes to the Governor's office will pay for the clerical position.

Mr. Mann said that the amendment appears to allow the State Planning Coordinator to re-hire the clerical position.

Mr. Hill indicated that he did not intend to add a position.

Mr. Mann said that the amendment was not necessary.

Mr. Sam Mamet, representing Clark County, stated that Clark County as well as the Nevada Association of County Commissioners very strongly supports the concept of the Futures Commission.

Mr. Jack Pettiti, Clark County Commissioner, said that in November 1978, the Nevada Association of County Commissioners adopted Resolution 10 in support of the Futures Commission.

Mr. Bremner asked if the Nevada Association of County Commissioners could provide the \$20,000.

Mr. Pettiti said that they did not have the money, but will provide the Futures Commission with support help.

Mr. Bob Sullivan, Carson River Basin Council of Governments, stated that they support the Futures Commission with any help they can give.

Chairman Mello asked Mr. Sullivan if he has had any problems with the State Planning Coordinator's office in the past.

Mr. Sullivan said that the Carson River Basin Council of Governments has not had problems with the State Planning Office.

AB 296

Chairman Mello presented the Committee an amendment by Senate Finance to AB 296 which reads: "amend Section 1, Page 1, Line 3 by deleting \$197,400 and insert \$147,400."

Mr. Bible noted the reduction is due to the deletion made by Senate Finance of a 4,000 gallon water tanker at a cost of \$50,000; the original bill had an appropriation for two, and the Senate deleted one.

Mr. Bremner asked why did Senate Finance delete the water tanker.

Mr. Bible said that the reduction was made on the Senate floor and he did not know their rationale.

Chairman Mello pointed out to the Committee that NIC presented their line item budget on time.

Mr. Mann asked if the information was ever produced as to whether the NIC attorneys were allowed to have a private practice.

Chairman Mello said that he did not receive that information.

CLARK COUNTY JAYCEES

Dr. David Smith, representing the Fairgrounds Foundation, introduced trustee, Rich Macauley, and pointed out the conflict that the Las Vegas Jaycees, the Elks and the Southern Nevada Youth Fair have experienced with the Las Vegas Convention Center in the use of the facility.

Dr. Smith said the solution to the problem is to create a new and separate facility at the Clark County Fairgrounds. He noted the civic interest as expressed in the attendance figures of the following events: Southern Nevada Youth Fair - 80,000 in attendance; Elks ElDorado - 65,000 in attendance; and the Las Vegas Jaycees State Fair - 90,000 in attendance.

Dr. Smith stated that the purpose of designing and establishing this facility can be itemized as follows: (1) to serve the three primary users - the Elks, the Youth Fair and the Jaycees; (2) to provide an auxiliary facility for those permanent users of the convention center that are also being pre-empted; (3) to have the facility designed for multi-use for 365 days a year; (4) to complement the existing facilities such as the convention center and the stadium. The new facility will "back-up" the stadium and with the removal of the astro-turf the number of days for useage will increase and it will help to decrease the operating deficit; and (5) to provide a facility with revenue producing and self-supporting potential. Dr. Smith continued that by 1985 the projection is to increase the civic participation at the three primary functions to 500,000. He added that they have contracted with the Economic Research Associates of Los Angeles to conduct the feasibility study (on file with the Fiscal Division).

Dr. Smith further commented that the Fairgrounds Foundation had received contributions from the Las Vegas Jaycees and that they had purchased the feasibility study and that they had received assurance of a 52-acre site located 600' to the north of the stadium. (Exhibit "G")

Mr. Macauley stated that the Fairgrounds Foundation is separate and apart from the Las Vegas Jaycees. The Foundation is a consortium of all the organizations within the community that have been excluded from the fairgrounds. He continued that the total package amount to complete the project by 1982 would be \$9.89 million.

Chairman Mello asked if that was the amount being requested from the State.

Mr. Macauley answered that the Foundation was not requesting the total funding, but that they were requesting an appropriation to be sponsored by the Committee in the amount of \$3.2 million which would fund the project through the initial planning and construction phases until April, 1981.

He added that the appropriation requested would provide the Foundation with leverage and an opportunity to seek other funding sources available from the State and the private sector.

Chairman Mello commented that the Committee is acutely conscious of the electorate's Question 6 mandate and that they are doing everything possible to hold expenditures down and give the citizens of the State a tax break. He added that the community itself should fund the project - if the people of Clark County want the facility then they should pay for it.

Mr. Macauley responded that he agreed with the Chairman's comments, but that he would like to continue his presentation.

Chairman Mello said that if he was going to continue to ask for \$3.2 million there was really no point in going on. Mr. Macauley answered that in the spirit of encouraging young people to participate in government he would like to continue to present the proposals prepared.

Mr. Macauley stated that with the Nevada Legislature appropriation of \$3.2 million, the Fairgrounds Foundation can effectively solicit matching funds in the private sector and corporate grants. He added that through the assistance of the Economic Research Association they have isolated and identified four private foundation prospects for possible "seed" money grants. In addition, he stated that other potential funding sources on the county and Federal levels have been identified such as the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, Urban Parks and Recreational Recovery Program, and the Four Corners Regional Commission. He also said that the Fairgrounds Foundation had designed a "preferred-giving" program for potential donors. He indicated that the entire matching and leverage funding strategy is dependent upon the Foundation's ability to demonstrate a broad base of State and county support and that is the reason they are seeking the initial \$3.2 million appropriation from the State legislature. Mr. Macauley suggested that the funds could come from the State's reserve.

Chairman Mello stated that the State reserve or surplus is for tax cuts, not to provide funds for new programs or projects.

Mr. Art Rader of the Las Vegas Fairgrounds Foundation indicated that they had tried to design a package that would provide leverage for "grass roots" funding of the project and that the funds requested from the State could be repaid by the revenues generated by the new facility. He said that through the efforts of the Foundation they were trying to take the financial burden off the government. He added that since they are new to the process their approach may be naive, but that they do appreciate the Committee's consideration.

Mr. Webb commented that perhaps the Foundation should research the Reno situation before they indicate re-payment of funds from revenues because the Reno facility has been operating on a deficit basis for years. Mr. Rader answered that that is why they had contacted the professional team to assist them, since the team's experience had generated a profitable facility as exemplified by the Orange County Fair.

Chairman Mello asked for a motion to introduce a bill for the \$3.2 million appropriation for the Clark County fairgrounds facility. Mr. Vergiels so moved; seconded by Mr. Mann. Mr. Vergiels voted YES; the rest of the Committee noted NO. Motion not approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.



DATE: April 16, 1979

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

GUEST LIST

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

REPRESENTING:

Maite Larson

Dolven Larson Daniels - Reno.

Arnel Fitto

Paul Strickland

Graduate Students' Association - UNR

Edy Allison

Thomas Pappalardo

Clayt Labedean

UNR

Wane P. Hall

UNLV

Brock Dixon

UNLV

Hal Smith

BURROWS, SMITH & CO. OF NEVADA.

Jack Pettiti

CLARK COUNTY COMMISSIONER

SAM MANET

CLARK COUNTY

FRED DOLVEN

DOLVEN LARSON DANIELS, RENO

JUD ALLEN

RENO-SPARKS CHAMBER OF COM.

Jim Joyce

B. Kamehos

UNR Wolf B. & Boosters

JOE LIBKE

UNR Wolf Club

Wayne Pearson

UNLV

Dill Ireland

UNLV

Larry Lessly

UNR

Bruno Menicucci

City of Reno

Richard Brakewell

UNR

Frank P. Patta

UNR Wolf Club Boosters

Dr. David P. Smith

FAIRGROUNDS FOUNDATION

Art Raden

LAS VEGAS

FAIRGROUNDS FOUNDATION

Richard B. Macaulay

LAS VEGAS FAIRGROUNDS FOUNDATION

Bob Hill

State Planning Coord.

Don Cambeiro AIA

WRC Architects

Robert Lee Gilley AIA

WZL ARCHITECTS

JOE CROWLEY

UNR

Emie Montuelli

UNR Wolf Club

William Parish

UNR Wolf Club

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

GUEST LIST

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

REPRESENTING:

Bob Richards

Fairgrounds Foundation

MILIC FELDMAN

Fairgrounds Foundation

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PAUL LAXALT  
NEVADA

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
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(702) 385-6547

RENO OFFICE:  
300 BOOTH STREET  
(702) 784-5568

April 10, 1979

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Committee:

I have been asked by regents, administrators, and supporters of the University of Nevada to appear before you today and testify on behalf of Assembly Bill 63. I regret not being able to be present because of a long-standing family committment. I hope this letter will be an adequate substitute for my personal appearance.

At the conclusion of the 1977 session of the Nevada State Legislature, it was called to my attention that Assembly Bill 612, which had just been passed, authorized the construction of some badly needed facilities at UNR and UNLV. There was only one catch. Construction would not commence until and unless Congress provided the money by changing the law pertaining to the federal tax on slot machines so that the federal government would increase the slot tax rebated to Nevada beyond the level of 80%.

I must say, you Nevada legislators really know how to put the monkey on a fellow's back --- particularly mine, since I was a member of the Senate Finance Committee which had to approve such a change. I certainly want to thank you for that! If some of you felt your ears burning back in May of 1977, and even a few times since then, it may have been the result of the kind ████ thoughts I was thinking about you for providing me with this splendid opportunity to convince my colleagues in the United States Senate to return several millions a year in federal tax money to the state of Nevada!

Fortunately, success was achieved in the fall of 1978. I won't bore you with all the behind-the-scenes maneuvering that took place for about a year, but if you had been closely following the proceedings of the Senate Finance Committee for that period, you might have noticed that Nevada's Junior Senator didn't cross his Committee Chairman, Russell Long of Louisiana, very many times. Actually, Russell reminds me very much of Don Mello and Floyd Lamb -- very warm, compassionate and sympathetic to all people and spending requests that come before their respective committees!



Nevada State Legislature  
April 10, 1979  
page two

Seriously, though, some developments took place in the Senate Finance Committee hearings that I probably should emphasize because they may have a bearing on your considerations today.

Although the bill introduced by Senator Cannon and myself called for the federal government to rebate 95% of the slot tax to Nevada, the Senate Finance Committee decided to rebate 95% this year, and then repeal the tax entirely next year. The reason this came about was that the U. S. Treasury Department's representatives present at the committee hearing took the position that they didn't want to have to administer a federal tax which only yielded five percent and thus they strenuously opposed the 95% rebate on a permanent basis. They indicated that they would not oppose complete repeal of the tax leaving the entire amount available to Nevada.

Thus the state of Nevada will receive an unexpected extra amount of the slot tax revenue provided the 1979 Nevada Legislature passes Assembly Bill 63 which, I understand, will levy a state tax on slot machines to become effective upon repeal of the federal tax. Failure to pass AB63 could have dire consequences. First, of course, the state would lose this large amount of revenue until it should pass the state tax in some future session. But, as a result of commitments I made to the Senate Finance Committee and previous similar commitments made when the original slot tax rebate was passed in the early 1970's, you would be seriously risking federal action on this matter should you not enact AB63 this session.

I sold the bill to the Senate Finance Committee on two points: (1) That the money was badly needed back home in Nevada for University capital construction projects as evidenced by your passage of AB612 in 1977 which is now a part of Nevada Revised Statute 463.385, Sections 6 and 7, and that, under Nevada law, all of the additional increase must be used for that purpose; and (2) that no other group would receive any relief from passage of the bill including Nevada's gaming industry.

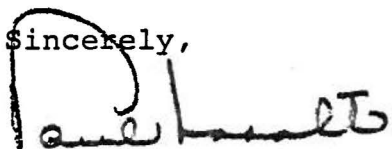
It is my opinion that failure by the 1979 Nevada Legislature to enact AB63 would likely result in the U. S. Treasury Department, or some other agency or group, introducing a bill to establish the federal tax again. Obviously, none of us want that to happen.

Nevada State Legislature  
April 10, 1979  
page three

I also want to comment upon the amendments to AB63 which specifically authorize the bonding for the two facilities at UNR and UNLV. Although I would have worked for passage of our bill in Congress under any circumstances, I was principally motivated by the fact that the first projects to be funded are these two desperately needed special events centers at UNR and UNLV. I strongly urge you to pass AB63 with the amendments which will result in the immediate construction of these two facilities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



PAUL LAXALT  
United States Senator

PL:vl

Members,  
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means  
Nevada State Legislature  
Carson City, Nevada

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF AB 63

by

Dr. Brock Dixon

I'm Brock Dixon, Acting President at UNLV. I am here to testify in favor of AB 63 and the proposed amendments thereto.

The 1977 legislature recognized the serious need for a center for Continuing Education and Special Events on the UNLV campus and authorized the construction of such a facility in AB 612 which un-animously passed the Assembly.

Our needs and problems requiring such a facility are no less serious today than they were two years ago. If anything, they are a little more serious. By way of a brief review, I call your attention to the following facts.

The demand for tickets to UNLV basketball games so far exceeds the supply that the following conditions have resulted:

1. Only 900 students tickets were available this year for an enrollment of more than 8,000.
2. No faculty or staff member can receive tickets if they have not been employed for at least four years.
3. No season tickets at all are available to the general public.
4. A long waiting list exists for people wanting to join our athletic scholarship program so that they can receive tickets.
5. Visiting teams in some cases cannot bring their fans because we only allow approximately one hundred tickets for visiting teams.

1463



This serious limitation on the number of basketball seats in the Las Vegas Convention Center compounds our budget problems by restricting the potential income needed to support our rapidly growing athletic program, whose cost is escalating, not only as a result of inflation and a growing program to meet our competition, but also as a result of the demands and requirements for a bigger women's athletic program placed on us by the Federal Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

We also have a very serious problem coping with the demands of our fast-growing Continuing Education program. Currently, we have approximately 15,000 Continuing Education students enrolled in 600 courses. Not one single classroom on campus is assigned to Continuing Education and no campus classroom space is available during the day. Some campus classroom space is available during the evenings only. Courses are taught off-campus in the following locations: hotels, the City Hall, Nellis Air Force Base, public schools and auditoriums, and church basements.

In addition to our serious problems with our Athletic and Continuing Education programs, we have no adequate campus facility to accommodate registration of students, commencement exercises for graduating students or any other large gathering of students and others for concerts, lectures or other miscellaneous purposes.

Thus you can see our needs for this new facility are multi-purpose and very serious. We urge you to reaffirm the support and approval you gave to our project two years ago by approving the amendments to AB 63.

Thank you for your consideration.

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PREPARED STATEMENT  
ON BEHALF OF AB 63

BY

JACK PETITTI

I'M JACK PETITTI, COUNTY COMMISSIONER FROM CLARK COUNTY AND CHAIRMAN OF THE LAS VEGAS CONVENTION AUTHORITY. THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO APPEAR BEFORE YOU AND TESTIFY IN BEHALF OF ASSEMBLY BILL 63.

THE NEED FOR THE REVENUE WHICH WILL BE DERIVED FROM THIS LEGISLATION IS OBVIOUS AND I FULLY SUPPORT THE BILL FOR THAT REASON. BUT THIS LEGISLATION IS ALSO VERY IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT AUTHORIZES THE CONSTRUCTION OF A VERY BADLY NEEDED PROJECT IN LAS VEGAS. I AM REFERRING, OF COURSE, TO THE CENTER FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION AND SPECIAL EVENTS ON THE CAMPUS AT UNLV.

THIS FACILITY WILL BE OF GREAT BENEFIT TO THE LAS VEGAS CONVENTION AUTHORITY AND THE ECONOMY OF CLARK COUNTY FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS.

FIRST, IT WILL FREE UP FOR CONVENTION PURPOSES ALL OF THE DATES GIVEN TO UNLV FOR THEIR BASKETBALL GAMES AT THE CONVENTION CENTER. ON THE AVERAGE, UNLV ANNUALLY PLAYS ABOUT EIGHTEEN GAMES IN THE CONVENTION CENTER. SOME OF THOSE EIGHTEEN GAMES, HOWEVER, ACTUALLY TIE UP THE ROTUNDA FOR MORE THAN A DAY BECAUSE IT ORDINARILY REQUIRES A DAY TO SET UP FOR A BASKETBALL GAME AND ANOTHER DAY TO BREAK DOWN AFTERWARDS. SOMETIMES, GAMES ARE PLAYED ON CONSECUTIVE DATES OR ON CLOSE ENOUGH DATES THAT WE DON'T BREAK DOWN THE SET-UP BETWEEN GAMES. BUT IT DOES HAPPEN A NUMBER OF TIMES DURING THE SEASON SO THAT IT IS FAIR TO SAY THAT FOR ABOUT 25 DAYS EACH YEAR THE ROTUNDA AT THE LAS VEGAS CONVENTION CENTER IS NOT AVAILABLE FOR CONVENTION PURPOSES BECAUSE IT IS BEING UTILIZED BY THE UNIVERSITY. NOW I AND MOST EVERYONE ELSE AT THE CONVENTION AUTHORITY ARE ENTHUSIASTIC REBEL BASKETBALL FANS; BUT THE AVAILABILITY OF 25 ADDITIONAL DAYS EACH YEAR FOR CONVENTION USE WOULD POTENTIALLY MEAN A GREAT DEAL TO THE ECONOMY OF CLARK COUNTY AND TO THE STATE OF NEVADA IN TERMS OF ADDITIONAL SALES, GAMING AND ENTERTAINMENT TAXES THAT WOULD BE GENERATED.

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SECOND, THE LAS VEGAS CONVENTION AUTHORITY AND THE ECONOMY OF CLARK COUNTY WILL BENEFIT FROM THE NEW FACILITY AT UNLV BECAUSE IT WILL SERVE AS AN AUXILIARY CONVENTION FACILITY FOR CERTAIN LARGE CONVENTION GROUPS WHICH REQUIRE A MUCH LARGER MEETING HALL THAN THE 6,000 SEAT ROTUNDA IN THE PRESENT CONVENTION CENTER. IN RECENT YEARS, WE HAVE HOSTED QUITE A FEW CONVENTIONS WHICH WE COULD NOT PROPERLY ACCOMMODATE WHEN THEY WANTED TO GATHER ALL TOGETHER AT ONE TIME. THIS NEW FACILITY AT UNLV WILL HELP US SOLVE THIS SERIOUS PROBLEM.

KEEP IN MIND, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE CONVENTION BUSINESS IS VITAL TO THE ECONOMY OF CLARK COUNTY AND TO THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF LOCAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT. ALSO KEEP IN MIND THE FACT THAT THE CONVENTION BUSINESS IS VERY COMPETITIVE BETWEEN AND AMONG CITIES AROUND THIS COUNTRY, AND WE ARE NOT BEING COMPETITIVE AND ARE PUTTING THE ECONOMY OF LAS VEGAS IN JEOPARDY EACH TIME WE HAVE TO TELL A POTENTIAL CONVENTION GROUP THAT THEY CAN NOT USE OUR CONVENTION CENTER AS LONG AS THEY WOULD LIKE BECAUSE THE UNIVERSITY NEEDS IT OR WHEN WE HAVE TO TELL THEM THAT WE WOULD LIKE THEM TO HOLD THEIR 10,000 OR 20,000 DELEGATE CONVENTION IN LAS VEGAS BUT ONLY SIX TO SEVEN THOUSAND OF THEM CAN ATTEND A GENERAL MEETING TOGETHER.

THIRD, THE NEW FACILITY AT UNLV WILL HELP SOLVE ANOTHER PROBLEM WE CURRENTLY HAVE, THAT BEING THE INABILITY OF THE CONVENTION CENTER TO ACCOMMODATE THE LARGE NUMBER OF FANS WISHING TO ACCOMPANY SOME OF THE BASKETBALL TEAMS COMING TO LAS VEGAS TO PLAY THE REBELS. WE HAVE BEEN LOSING SIGNIFICANT TOURIST INCOME AND RESULTING TAX REVENUE BECAUSE THOUSANDS OF VISITING FANS DID NOT COME TO LAS VEGAS BECAUSE THERE WERE NOT SEATS AVAILABLE FOR THEM AT THE GAMES. I'M SURE THIS TYPE OF VISITOR TO LAS VEGAS WILL REPRESENT A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF TOURIST BUSINESS IN THE FUTURE ONCE UNLV'S NEW FACILITY IS COMPLETED.

SO FAR I HAVE ONLY DISCUSSED THE PROPOSED UNLV CAMPUS FACILITY FROM THE STANDPOINT OF HOW IT WILL HELP THE CONVENTION AUTHORITY AND THE ECONOMY OF CLARK COUNTY AND THE STATE. I MUST ALSO BRIEFLY COMMENT ON THE VERY VALUABLE FUNCTION THIS FACILITY WILL SERVE IN HELPING FULLFILL THE RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE OF CLARK COUNTY, BOTH OF WHICH ARE NOT BEING MET VERY WELL AT THE PRESENT TIME DUE TO A LACK OF LARGE PHYSICAL FACILITIES. YOU HAVE ALL PROBABLY HAD EXPERIENCES WITH TOURISTS ASKING IF ANY ONE LIVES IN



LAS VEGAS AND THEN EXPRESSING SURPRISE WHEN TOLD THAT, YES, A LOT OF PEOPLE LIVE IN LAS VEGAS. INDEED, A LOT OF PEOPLE DO LIVE IN LAS VEGAS AND CLARK COUNTY--ABOUT FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND AT THE PRESENT TIME. IT IS A DISGRACE THAT IN AN AREA WHOSE POPULATION WILL BE HALF A MILLION PEOPLE SHORTLY, THE LARGEST INDOOR PUBLIC FACILITY AVAILABLE FOR RECREATIONAL, ENTERTAINMENT AND CULTURAL PURPOSES ONLY SEATS SIX TO SEVEN THOUSAND PEOPLE AND IS SELDOM AVAILABLE BECAUSE ITS PRIMARY PURPOSE IS TO HOST VISITING CONVENTION GROUPS.

IN URGING YOU TO ACT FAVORABLY ON THIS BILL, I ALSO WOULD HOPE AND PRAY THAT YOU WILL HAVE THE WISDOM AND FORESIGHT TO ACT IN THE BEST INTERESTS AND NEEDS OF CLARK COUNTY IN FUTURE YEARS. SOME OF YOU MAY RECALL THAT PERIOD OF TIME IN THE MID-1950'S WHEN THE CURRENT LAS VEGAS CONVENTION CENTER WAS BEING PLANNED. THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE OPPOSITION TO ITS CONSTRUCTION ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT WASN'T NEEDED OR THAT IT WAS MUCH TOO LARGE. SOME PEOPLE PREDICTED THAT ITS 6,000 SEATS WOULD NEVER BE FILLED FOR AN EVENT. NOW, OF COURSE, THE ONLY COMMENTS YOU HEAR ABOUT THE INITIAL PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE CONVENTION CENTER IN THE MID-1950'S ARE TO THE EFFECT THAT WHAT A SHAME IT IS THAT THOSE PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR PLANNING THE CONVENTION CENTER DID NOT HAVE THE IMAGINATION AND FORESIGHT TO SEE WHAT THE SIZE OF CLARK COUNTY AND ITS NEEDS WOULD BE JUST TWENTY YEARS LATER IN THE 1970'S.

SIMILARLY, I WOULD HOPE THAT YOU LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THIS COMMITTEE AND ALL OTHER RESPONSIBLE PERSONS WILL HAVE THE VISION TO LOOK AHEAD INTO CLARK COUNTY'S FUTURE TWENTY TO THIRTY YEARS FROM NOW. I CONFIDENTLY PREDICT THAT MOST OF YOU PRESENT IN THIS ROOM WILL LIVE TO SEE THE DAY WHEN THE POPULATION OF CLARK COUNTY EXCEEDS ONE MILLION PEOPLE. LET IT BE SAID BY EVERYONE IN THE YEAR 1999 THAT THE 1979 NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE POSSESSED GREAT WISDOM, FORESIGHT AND CONCERN ABOUT CLARK COUNTY'S FUTURE BY APPROVING ASSEMBLY BILL 63 WHICH AUTHORIZED THIS LARGE, BEAUTIFUL FACILITY ON THE CAMPUS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA AT LAS VEGAS. NO MATTER WHAT THE COST, IT WILL RETURN GREAT DIVIDENDS OF MANY KINDS IN FUTURE YEARS.

I MIGHT ADD THAT ALTHOUGH I DO NOT HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF THE PROPOSED FACILITY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA AT RENO,

I BELIEVE MY TESTIMONY IS ALSO APPLICABLE TO THAT PROJECT AND ITS IMPORTANCE TO THE FUTURE OF WASHOE COUNTY.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION AND YOUR CONSIDERATION.



LAS VEGAS CONVENTION VISITORS AUTHORITY

CONVENTION CENTER  
PARADISE ROAD · P. O. BOX 14006  
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89114  
TELEPHONE · AREA CODE 702 · 733-2323

April 12, 1979

Mr. Bill Ireland  
Director of Athletics  
UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS  
4505 Maryland Parkway  
Las Vegas, Nevada

Dear Mr. Ireland:

We have reviewed the master book for the availability of dates for the University of Nevada, Las Vegas to schedule their 1980/81 basketball season in the Rotunda of the Las Vegas Convention Center.

In reviewing the availability of dates, at this time, there is a possibility of scheduling approximately eight home basketball games for that season. Consideration should be given in possibly scheduling the balance of the dates requested by your department at an alternate site in order to accommodate your home schedule for that season.

The availability of dates is becoming extremely more difficult to acquire because of the increased convention activity being booked by the Convention Bureau in the Las Vegas Convention Center. Should the University in the future decide to build a pavilion for basketball, based on the growth potential of the community and the University system, they should not consider anything less than a 16,000 to 18,000 seat sports complex.

Should you have any questions with the above scheduling of basketball for the 1980/81 season, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Best regards,

Gene Stephens  
Director of Facilities

GS/vld

cc: Len Hornsby  
Executive Director

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Statement by Joseph N. Crowley, President,  
University of Nevada, Reno,  
Supporting AB63

Assembly Ways and Means Committee

April 16, 1979

The proposed Special Events Center for the University of Nevada, Reno, responds to a number of critical campus and community needs. These needs are detailed below:

1. Intercollegiate Athletic Events. The University's basketball program is without a suitable playing facility at a time when the program has become significantly stronger, national recognition has been achieved, and community interest has heightened considerably. The Old Gymnasium is entirely inadequate for this program, even though it had to be used for approximately one-half of the team's home schedule two years ago. It had to be used because of scheduling conflicts with the Centennial Coliseum, where UNR has played its home schedule for a number of years. The Coliseum places a priority on conventions. Conflicts have not only forced the University to utilize the Old Gym but have caused severe scheduling problems. Over the last two years, for example, we have lost five games with high quality opponents because the Coliseum was not available. In addition, these conflicts have unbalanced home and away scheduling, putting us on the road for extended periods. During one stretch in the recent season, the team played only one home game in 36 days.

Apart from scheduling difficulties, the Coliseum is not readily accessible to campus, thus making it difficult for some students to attend games. Poor sightlines in some parts of the

facility cause problems. Its seating capacity has been inadequate for some games and will be increasingly inadequate in the near future. Average home attendance has been steadily growing, exceeding 5,000 per game in 1978-79 in a 6,200 seat facility. We are entering a conference with keen basketball competition, growing spectator interest and a membership whose basketball facilities are all (with one exception) larger than our own. The only exception is Boise State, which is in the process of building a 12,000 seat arena. Other conference facilities range in size from 9,300 to 15,300.

When one couples these several factors with the population growth in Northern Nevada (projected by the Office of State Planning to increase from 180,000 in 1978 to 338,000 in 1990)-- a growth that will produce greater demands for game tickets--the unsuitability of the Centennial Coliseum facility is apparent.

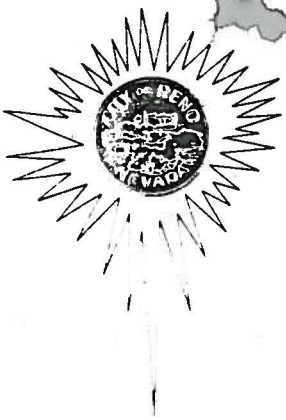
2. Cultural Events. The University currently has very limited facilities for concerts, theater, lectures, recitals, conferences and a wide variety of large-scale cultural events. Community facilities for these attractions are also very limited. The proposed Center would fill a large need in this area. Given the operating costs of a facility of the proposed size, it is essential that the facility be multi-purpose. If the break-even point is to be reached, the Center must be utilized for a large number of events other than intercollegiate basketball. The proposed design of the Center facilitates such utilization, while at the same time it responds to campus and community needs in the cultural area.

1771

3. Other Events. The Center would be used for other University occasions, such as commencements, registration and convocations. It would also be available for community athletic events, such as high school basketball tournaments, pro basketball, exhibition tennis, conventions, conferences and the like. In this regard it would be complimentary to rather than competitive with existing community facilities.

The Special Events Center, in short, is a good investment for both the University and the community. It responds to a variety of urgent needs and will be devoted to a wide range of useful purposes.





# CITY OF RENO

From the Office of: Mayor Bruno Menicucci

April 13, 1979

Mr. Don Mello, Chairman  
Ways and Means Committee  
Nevada State Legislature  
Carson City, Nevada


Dear Mr. Mello:

The City of Reno supports AB63 and its quick passage in the Legislature. We believe the funding provision for construction of a Special Events Center on the University of Nevada, Reno, campus is particularly important to the future of our community.

As you know, the greater Reno/Sparks area is experiencing rapid growth. There is a great need for a facility in Reno of the size and flexible capabilities the University has proposed to accommodate UNR, civic and public school programs. With convention business growing, more conflicts can be anticipated in the future for use of the Centennial Coliseum by these groups. The Special Events Center will not only encourage the growth and development of performance/spectator events in Reno but will support the growth of convention business in the area as well by freeing dates in the Coliseum and providing an auxiliary facility for large conventions and/or events the Coliseum might not be able to handle.

Therefore, we believe the Special Events Center will not only improve the quality of life in this community but advance our economy as well. Once again, we urge thorough consideration of AB63 and its quick passage.

Sincerely,

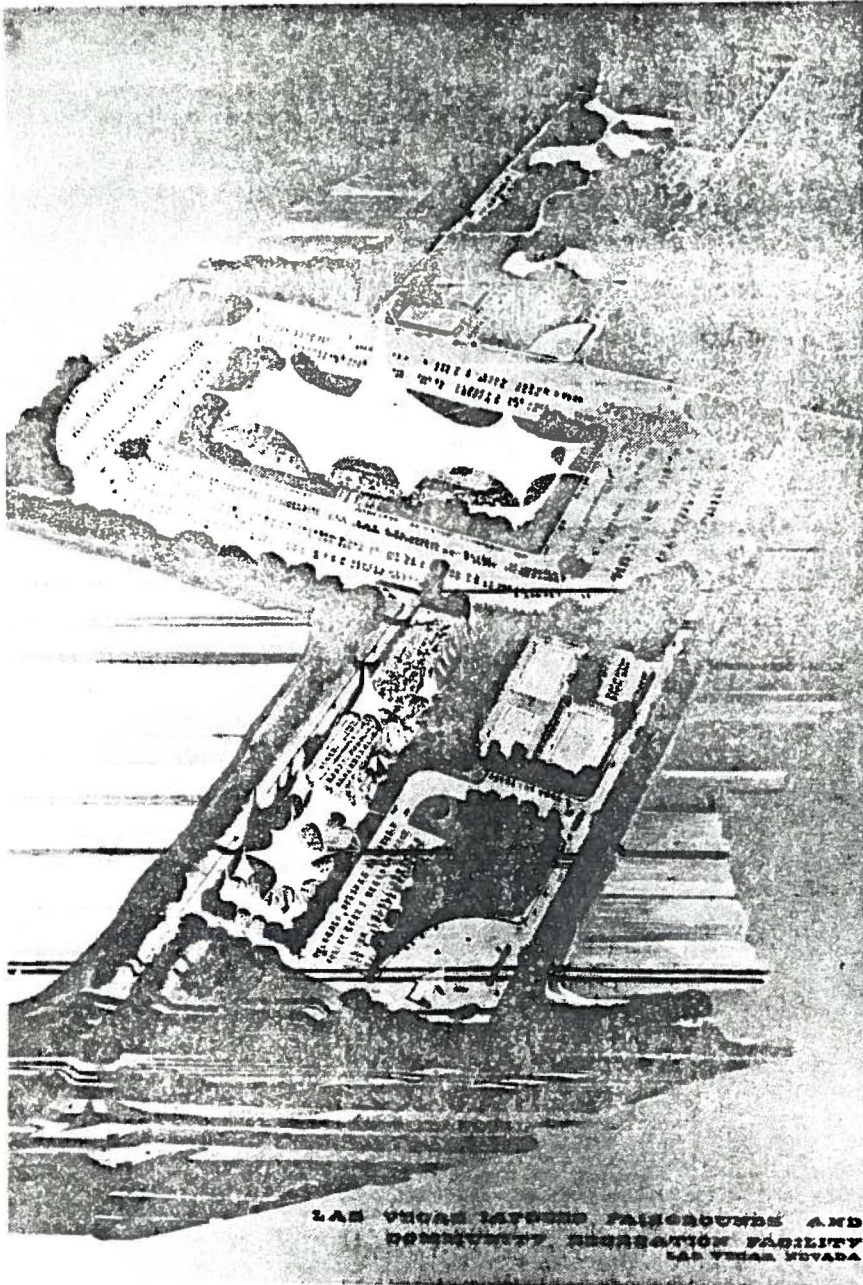
  
Bruno Menicucci  
Mayor, City of Reno

BM:kls

xc: President Joe Crowley



# MASSIVE COMMUNITY EFFORT TO PLAN, FUND, & CONSTRUCT NEEDED FAIRGROUNDS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITY



## BACKGROUND:

Recently the Las Vegas Jaycees were informed by the Las Vegas Convention Fair Authority that the Southern Nevada Youth Fair has been pre-empted for 1980 and the Elks Helldorado Rodeo had been pre-empted for 1981, because of scheduling conflicts at the Las Vegas Convention Center.

This unfortunate event is symptomatic of the growing exclusion of local community events from the Convention Center due to the growth of convention business in the area.

The Convention Center was built with the purpose of serving both the convention industry and local recreational needs. The Center is the only available facility for the Southern Nevada Youth Fair, the Jaycees State Fair, Elks Helldorado Rodeo, and a variety of other community events, many of which are youth or family-type activities so badly needed in Southern Nevada. These activities are not as profitable as convention business and thus do not receive priority in scheduling and accommodations to insure their continuation at the Convention Center.

In addition to date conflicts, the Center is not physically equipped for many fair-type events, nor is there adequate parking for major events. Clearly there is a need for an alternative to the Convention Center. (See attached partial list of organizations that would be served by a permanent fairgrounds facility.)

## SOLUTION:

The Las Vegas Jaycees Fairgrounds and Recreation Center Foundation has spear-headed the development of a permanent multi-use fairgrounds facility in Clark County. The intent of the Jaycees is to serve Southern Nevada by providing a site for those events listed above and to insure the accommodations for a growing number of both fair and non-fair community activities.

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**ERA FEASIBILITY STUDY**

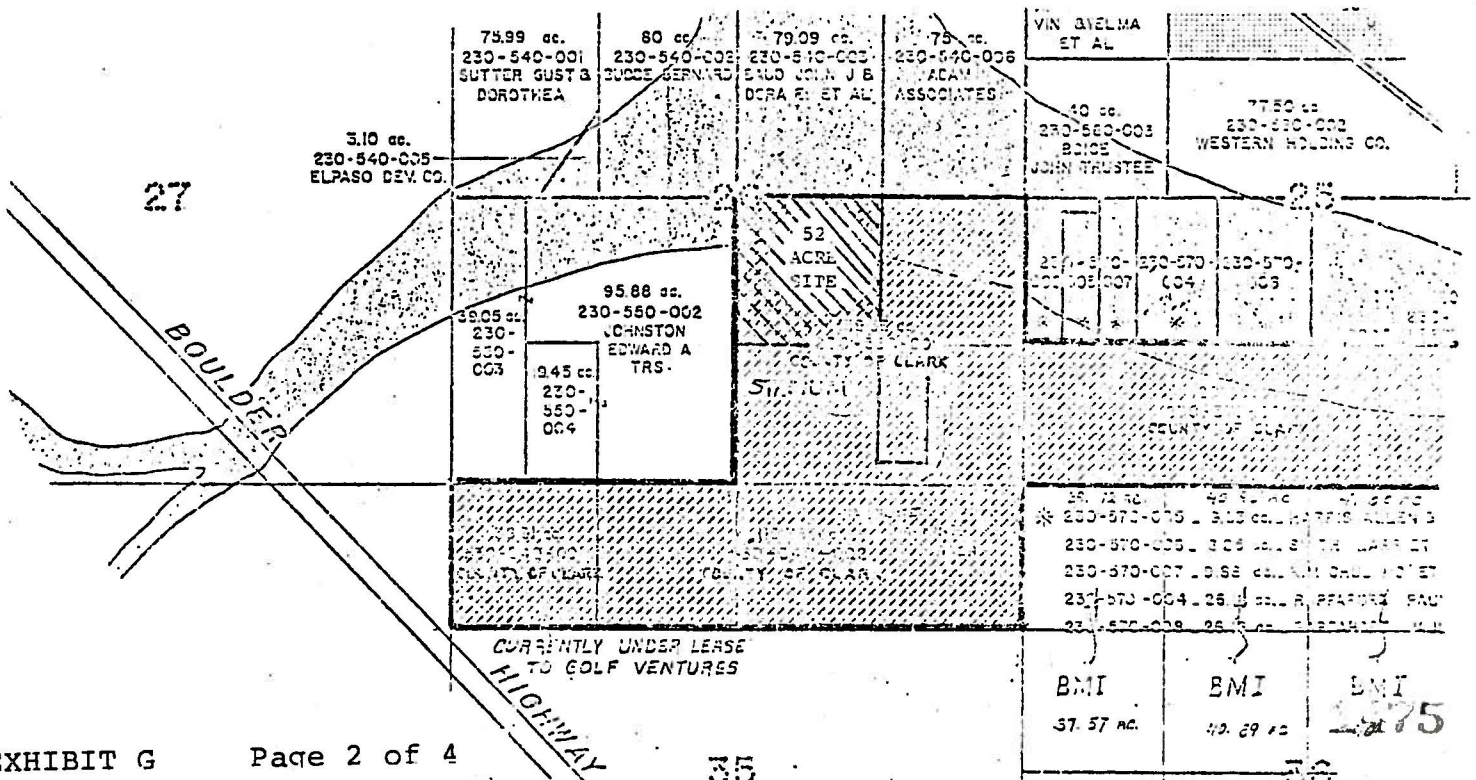
An extensive feasibility study has been completed by Economic Research Associates of California, a professional service organization with 20 years nation-wide experience in recreation planning. (Clients include Orange County Fair and Exposition Center, Disney World, Six Flags, and the Seattle Worlds Fair.)

ERA indicates a strong and growing market for a fairground facility based on current demand and on substantial population increases in Clark County. (Projections indicate a population of 688,000 by 1990.)

In order to insure maximum, multi-purpose use, ERA recommends a 43 acre fairgrounds to include:  
 Indoor and Outdoor Exhibit Areas  
 Midway/Amusement Zone  
 Grandstand/Track  
 Livestock Facilities (Indoor)  
 Plazas, Eating, and Resting Places  
 Circulation Space, Service Areas,  
 and Expansion Area  
 (Another 77 acres would be needed for parking)

**SITE:**

The Las Vegas Jaycees have secured a 52 acre site (from Clark County) adjacent to the Silver Bowl Football Stadium. This site has excellent potential because the Stadium, which is now restricted to football, could be used in place of a grandstand/arena for a variety of events. Existing parking areas would also be available, reducing both land requirements and cost for the new facility.





**COST OF IMPLEMENTATION:**

The estimated cost for the development of the stadium site is \$9.891 million. If funding is secured immediately, the facility could be constructed and put to use by April 1982.

**FUNDING:**

An extensive funds search by the Fairgrounds Foundation indicates that \$9.891 million could be levered on match bases from the Private Sector, City funds, and County funds if the State of Nevada appropriated \$3.2 million from the 1979 Treasury Surplus. This \$3.2 million appropriation would provide the \$68,000 necessary to complete Master Planning by POD Inc. in conjunction with Economic Research Associates of California, the most experienced and credible Fairgrounds designers and consultants in the industry. The balance would be used after Master Planning for construction drawings, initial site development, and the completion of utilities, some facilities, and landscaping. This would carry the project through April 30, 1981.

**FUNDING STRATEGY:**

With the Nevada Legislature appropriation of \$3.2 Million, the Fairgrounds Foundation can effectively solicit match grants in the private sector through Private Foundation and Corporate Grants. With the expert assistance of Human Resource Development Corporation, Facilitators Inc., and Researchers and Grant Seekers Associates, we've isolated four Private Foundation prospects for "seed money" grants. We've also identified numerous Private Foundation prospects for large capital development grants which will provide funds on a matching basis.

Other likely sources of potential funding for this project were identified in the County and Federal arenas: The Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Program, Four-Corners Regional Commission for Technical and Planning Assistance, Land and Water Conservation Fund, and the Economic Development Administration.

In addition, the Fairgrounds Foundation has designed a Deferred-Giving Program for potential donors in this area of funding. This program is patterned after two highly-successful models. Plans being considered include Gift Annuities, Special Use Agreements, Pooled Life Income Fund Agreements, Wills, and the Trust Fund.

This entire "matching" and "levering" strategy is dependent upon our ability to demonstrate a broad base of State and County support, so the "buck starts here."

**FAIRGROUNDS FOUNDATION TRUSTEES**

Brad Overfield, Pres.	870-2011 (W)
Dr. David Smith, Sec.	878-2188 (W)
James Baumberger, Treas.	384-8762 (W)
Rick Macauley, Trustee	457-2376 (W) 384-0748 (H)
Dennis Rusk, Trustee	735-9169 (W) 731-3267 (H)

**WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

We request the Nevada State Assembly Ways-And-Means Committee draft a bill appropriating \$3.2 million towards the Fairgrounds project and recommend "DO PASS" to this 1979 session the State Legislature.

POTENTIAL NON-FAIR USERS

ORGANIZATION	EVENT	AREA USED
Camp Fire Girls	Meeting	Gold Room
Miss Majorette of Nevada	Modeling Program	Room 20
Jr. World Organizing Comm.	Wrestling	North Hall
Universal Pageant System	Beauty Pageant	Room A 1-6
Nevada State Ceramic Association	Show	Rooms 18-24
Western High School Alumni	Dance/Cocktail Party	Gold Room
Southern Nevada Girls Conference	Grand Old Opera	Rotunda
L.V. Auto Swap & Show	Auto Show	East Hall "C"
March of Dimes	Walk-A-Thon	Rotunda
City of Las Vegas Ethnic Friendship	Meeting	Gold Room
Las Vegas Doll Club	Doll Show	Rooms 19-20
Silver State Kennel Club	Dog Show	East Hall A&D
Boy Scouts of America	Fun Fair	North Hall, Rooms 16-17
Southern Nevada Chinchilla Show	Show	E 1-2-3
Pop Warner Football	Meeting	Room 2
Las Vegas Bottle Club	Bottle Show	A 1-6
Clark County Humane Society	Alaska Show	A 1-6
Opportunity Village	Benefit for Handicapped Johnny O'Hara Show	Rotunda
Miss Clark County Pageant	Pageant	Room A 1-6, B 1-3
City of Las Vegas Park Department	Flower Show	Room 3 1-3, F 1-3
Distributive Education Club	Meeting	Room A 1-6, O 1-2
Frontier Girl Scouts	Cadet Dinner	Gold Room
Afro American Unity Festival	Beauty Pageant	Gold Room
Israel Independence Day	Food Festival	Room A 1-6
Clark County School District	Graduation	Rotunda, 5-10 North Hall
Amateur Athletic Union	Seminar	Room B-3
Clark County School District	Beauty Pageant	Room A 1-6
International Festival	Food Festival	North Hall
Muscular Dystrophy	Disco Dance	Room A 1-6
American Cancer Society	Quit Smoking Clinic	Room B-3
Latter Day Saints	Youth Conference	Gold Room, RMS 1-4

Table 1  
POPULATION TRENDS  
CLARK COUNTY  
1960-1990

Year	Population	Average Annual Growth Rate
1960	127,018	10.72
1965	211,228	5.3
1970	273,288	6.5
1975	376,013	4.7
1980	470,200	3.8
1985	564,700	4.0
1990	663,800	

Source: Clark County Regional Planning Council; U.S. Bureau of Census; and Economics Research Associates.

Table 2  
PRIMARY AND SECONDARY MARKET AREA POPULATION  
1970-1990  
(Thousands)

	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990
<b>Primary Market Area</b>					
Clark County, Nevada	273.3	374.0	470.2	564.7	663.8
<b>Secondary Market Area<sup>1/</sup></b>					
Esmeralda County, Nevada	0.6	--	--	--	--
Eya County, Nevada	5.6	--	--	--	--
Lincoln County, Nevada	2.4	--	--	--	--
Washington County, Utah	13.7	--	--	--	--
Mojava County, Arizona	25.9	--	--	--	--
San Bernardino County, California <sup>2/</sup>	116.4	--	--	--	--
Lago County, California	15.6	--	--	--	--
Total Secondary Market Area	180.4	188.0	195.6	203.6	211.9
<b>Total Both Market Areas</b>	<b>453.7</b>	<b>562.0</b>	<b>665.8</b>	<b>768.3</b>	<b>875.7</b>

<sup>1/</sup> Approximately 150 miles.

<sup>2/</sup> A portion of this county only, including Planning Area 19-23.

Source: U.S. Census; Sales Management, Survey of Buying Power; San Bernardino County Planning Department.

Table 3  
AGE DISTRIBUTION FOR  
CLARK COUNTY, LAS VEGAS COUNTY,  
AND THE STATE OF NEVADA  
1975  
(Percent)

Age Group	Clark County State	Las Vegas County	Nevada
Younger than 10	20.42	17.31	19.72
10 - 19	18.2	17.9	18.4
20 - 29	16.5	15.8	15.6
30 - 39	14.3	12.0	13.4
40 - 49	12.5	12.7	12.3
50 - 64	13.0	14.8	14.2
65 and Older	5.1	9.1	6.7
Total	100.02	100.02	100.02
Median Age (years)	25.9	29.2	27.8

Source: U.S. Census and Economics Research Associates.

Table 7

LAS VEGAS JAYCEES FAIR, SOUTHERN NEVADA YOUTH FAIR, ELKS HELLDORADO RODEO  
ATTENDANCE

Attendance	Las Vegas Jaycees State Fair	Southern Nevada Youth Fair	Elks Helldorado Rodeo
1978 total daily breakdown			
	8,204 Wednesday		2,000 Sunday
	7,604 Thursday	4,272 Thursday	2,000 Tuesday
	22,767 Friday	16,593 Friday	5,000 Wednesday
	32,957 Saturday	40,101 Saturday	7,000 Thursday
	17,788 Sunday	19,164 Sunday	12,000 Friday
	<b>88,320 Total (Paid and Free)</b>	<b>80,130 Total (Paid and Free)</b>	<b>64,000 Total</b>
1978 Paid	58,320 Paid	26,710 Paid	64,000
1977 Total	92,700	64,000	
1976 Total	90,000	52,000	
1975 Total	80,000	46,000	
Origin of Attendance - percent from Clark County	85%	99%	98%