

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Bremner
 Vice Chairman Hickey
 Mr. Bergevin
 Mr. Brady
 Mr. Coulter
 Mr. Glover
 Mrs. Hayes
 Mr. Horn
 Mr. Marvel
 Mr. Rhoads
 Mr. Robinson
 Mr. Vergiels
 Mrs. Westall

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ALSO PRESENT: Bill Bible, Fiscal Analyst; Judy Matteucci, Deputy Fiscal Analyst; Mike Alastuey, Deputy Budget Director (SEE ATTACHED GUEST LIST)

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

AB 380 Makes appropriation to "Rape Crisis Center" in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Mrs. Florence McClure, Director, Community Action Against Rape, appeared on behalf of this bill and requested an appropriation of \$44,128.55 to fund the Center for the next biennium. Mrs. McClure explained the background of this organization which was incorporated in January, 1974. The City of Las Vegas furnishes office space and the Center has been operating under a federal grant which expired December 31, 1980.

Mrs. McClure said that the Rape Crisis Center needs to stay in existence since it is the only real advocacy program for victims of sexual assault. She told of her efforts to raise funds and said she was appearing before the committee as a last resort. The Center is presently operating on an emergency one-time grant of \$20,000 from United Way, and Mrs. McClure said that she was still exploring all possibilities of obtaining federal funds, but she was not at all hopeful. Mrs. McClure added that she believed the budget presented and approved by the Board of Directors on August 10, 1980, could be reduced by \$2,000 or \$2,500.

Chairman Bremner commented that the committee was receiving requests daily for programs that have lost federal funding and the state is unable to grant all such requests.

Chairman Bremner asked if Mrs. McClure thought it would be possible to generate local support if the state were to give her matching money. Mrs. McClure said the program does not lend itself to fund raising as many other organizations do and she believed it would be difficult, if not impossible, to get matching funds.

In response to Mr. Robinson's question, Mrs. McClure said less than 5 percent of rape victims failed to report the crime to police. She further explained the various services offered to these victims by the Center and its volunteers. She also told Mr. Coulter she had tried to raise funds via newspapers, radio and television.

Mrs. McClure stated that any state funds received would be returned if she found another funding source.

Mr. Larry Ketzenberger, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, stated that Sheriff McCarthy had requested him to support Mrs. McClure's request for funding. From the standpoint of his department and the investigators in the sexual assault unit, Mr. Ketzenberger said Mrs. McClure's efforts over the years have been well received and she offers much assistance. The Police Department has had better and more prosecution of rape cases as a result of Mrs. McClure's counselors, he said. He urged the committee to approve the appropriation.

WATER SYSTEM AT JEAN PRISON

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Dr. Clifford Murino, President, Desert Research Institute, said the Institute was appearing as a friend and assistant to the committee since the committee had asked the Institute to act as technical consultants on the question of the Jean water supply. The Institute was further asked to ascertain if a water supply of acceptable quality and quantity existed within a reasonable distance of the Jean Prison.

Dr. Murino introduced Dr. Martin Mifflin, a Hydrogeologist with DRI, and asked him to describe the results of his research on this matter.

Dr. Mifflin said he had reviewed the existing data of wells in terms of well characteristics that occur in the State Engineer's well-driller logs and all the chemical analyses of various samples that have been taken from these wells and, in some places, springs in the general area of the Jean Prison. The data is very sparse as there are very few areas in the surroundings of the Jean community where there are wells or springs. The data does indicate, Dr. Mifflin continued, that there is a very good possibility that there is a better quality of groundwater resource in surrounding areas. At Jean, the underlying groundwater is of relatively poor quality. Dr. Mifflin said the real question is how far away the better quality groundwater is and how much can be developed. He added that the data indicates that basically to the east there is an area that has several wells with chemical analyses that indicate fair quality groundwater which would be similar in quality to the Las Vegas municipal supply. To the west, towards Good Springs, an area which has acceptable area groundwater, may also be a potential area for exploration. There is another area where there is no data but based on the hydrogeologic relationships to the southeast, it could be a third potential area.

A map of the area was shown on a screen and Dr. Mifflin pointed out areas and distances to the committee.

Dr. Mifflin said it would appear that it would require a test drilling program where water quality would first be established and then determine what the well yield would be for that given area.

Mr. Hickey suggested that the Union Pacific Engineering Department may have conducted tests several years ago in that area and might be able to furnish data.

Dr. Mifflin said his professional opinion in looking at these areas was that there was a fairly good probability of finding an acceptable quality of water. There is one slight question mark based on the stock well analyses and that is that the fluoride content is 1.65 and that is slightly above or right on the edge of the recommended public health standards.

Mr. Robinson asked the cost of test wells. Dr. Mifflin said DRI had estimated approximately \$40 a foot and more than one well should be drilled since the closest supply is being sought. If all three of the potential areas are explored, there would be eight test wells and the cost for drilling only would be approximately \$250,000, Dr. Mifflin estimated. The test drilling could be designed so that the well which was tested for yield, after acceptable water quality was established, could be used as a production or standby well. It was Dr. Mifflin's opinion that the cost would be approximately \$50,000 to complete such a test well as it would not be as high a yield well as a carefully designed production well.

Mr. Robinson referred to reports that Nevada's prison capacity must be increased and asked what the water situation was at Indian Springs. Mr. Bill Hancock, State Public Works Board, said that water was being obtained from all the wells at Indian Springs, that the water quality was good, and he would think there might be a potential for drilling more wells.

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Returning to the cost of the proposed test wells, Mr. Hancock said they have a figure of roughly \$238,000 a mile to get the water to the prison. That includes pipeline, power line, telemetry and telephone.

Dr. Robinson asked if it would be possible to get assistance from any other agency, such as the Las Vegas Valley District, in drilling the test wells. No one could answer the question, but Dr. Mifflin said that since this area was not considered a favorable spot for developing water, it was unlikely that Las Vegas would be interested.

Dr. Mifflin discussed the high cost of treating the water by reverse osmosis and said he understood the idea of searching for an alternate well supply was to discontinue this cost.

Dr. Murino reminded the committee that DRI was approached to determine if there was an alternative water supply within a reasonable distance and of acceptable quality. He said that DRI had not looked at the problem in the light of all the other things that could be done at Jean.

Chairman Bremner asked Mr. Hancock to express the thinking of the Public Works Board. Mr. Hancock said the Public Works Board had recommended that it either acquire the Jean Utility Company or duplicate it. At the March 6, 1981, meeting, it recommended that the committee allocate \$35,000 to do a test well at the Jean facility. That was a different concept than Dr. Mifflin is discussing here, Mr. Hancock continued, but it is along the same line of prospecting for water. DRI is recommending an allocation of \$250,000 and thoroughly prospect for water; determine what it is going to cost to get it to Jean; and also determine what kind of a joint operation the state can have with Jean Utility Company. Further options as suggested by Mr. Hancock were to continue to purchase utilities from the Jean Utility Company; purchase the Jean Utility Company for approximately \$1,800,000 and pay the operating costs of approximately \$177,000, not including regulatory costs or interest; or duplicate the system at Jean for \$1,700,000 plus operating costs and inferior water.

Chairman Bremner asked Mr. Peter Simon if he would care to speak. Mr. Simon said he did have some options on reducing costs and made the following statements to the committee:

It will cost a large amount to maintain the Jean Utility Company regardless of who owns it. The reverse osmosis plant is one of the main problems and the cost of financing is another. There are two ways to reduce the cost of service to the state. One is to reduce, eliminate or recover financing costs; the other is to reduce the operating costs. The only way the operating costs can be reduced is the program suggested by DRI. There is a possibility of some sort of technological breakthrough that will allow easy treatment of water having poor characteristics, but the main costs are associated with labor and 24-hour supervision.

To reduce, eliminate or recover the financing costs, there are also options. First, the state could buy the system which would require some sort of contract with Jean or a mechanism to supply the town with water. The state could purchase the utility company for cash or on an installment plan. There is also an "indirect purchase" which would entail forming a general improvement or sewer and water district which would be funded by the state. This would eliminate approximately \$230,000 for interest and regulatory costs.

Mr. Simon continued: Another way to reduce the financing costs would be for the state and Mr. Simon to agree, as owners of the utility company, to form a district under statutes, and the district itself would issue revenue bonds. Both parties would have to agree to form a district, pay the rates as set by the district, do something about costs, share water, expand treatment facilities or drill for water in other areas. The test well program could also be financed through a revenue bond as long

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as the users agreed to pay the debt service on the exploration costs even if it didn't prove fruitful. The rate at which the bonds would be issued would determine how much the costs could be reduced. With the prison and the City of Jean being the two main customers, the costs could probably be substantially reduced. The regulatory costs could be eliminated. The formation of a district would entail no cost to the state since the statutes provide for such a formation.

Mr. Simon further said: One other proposal would be direct financing where a loan could be made to the utility company to repay the current loans and expand the reverse osmosis plant. That would recover financing costs directly to the state and would also substantially reduce the overall costs. It would not reduce regulatory costs. The other way to eliminate financing costs would be to extend additional construction and aid similar to the \$200,000 that was already extended to the utility company in an amount great enough to retire the current debt and also allow for the expansion of another well.

Referring to the reverse osmosis system, Mr. Simon said that recently new membrane technology has been discovered which will allow the RO plant to double in capacity without having to build a parallel unit. While he does not have a firm figure on the total cost, Mr. Simon said that the equipment cost was approximately \$80,000. He believed that \$120,000 or \$150,000 would raise the RO capacities to approximately 125,000 gallons of treated water a day before blending, which would allow blending back to the 200,000 gallon a day level. That would require the addition of two wells in the valley. Mr. Simon's choice of options was to arrive at an agreement to form a district.

Mr. Simon told Mr. Robinson that if the Jean Prison was a 350 inmate institution, he would be able to supply water indefinitely. The problem at the present time is that the inmate capacity keeps increasing and the demands on the system keep increasing, he said.

In discussing the background of the water situation, Mr. Hancock represented as follows: When the Legislature was considering a new prison, Peter Simon made an offer to the state to provide a site. At that time, Mr. Simon made commitments that he would provide utilities and water of the same quality and at the same price range that existed in Las Vegas. The Legislature then directed the Public Works Board to develop a contract with Mr. Simon to provide the water and utility systems and an agreement was finally reached which provided that the utility costs would be approximately \$60,000 a year. With that agreement, the prison construction program started with the authorization of the Legislature. When the prison was constructed, Mr. Simon made application to the Public Service Commission to become a public utility. The Public Works Board introduced legislation at that time to require the Public Service Commission to honor the contract and PSC now sets the rates based on Mr. Simon's applications.

In response to Chairman Bremner's question, Mr. Simon said the prison water bills next year would be approximately \$440,000.

Mr. Glover believed the legal ramifications of the state changing to a different water system should be discussed. He asked Mr. Simon what his position would be in that event. Mr. Simon said he had so much money invested that the town of Jean would be unable to support the water system and that would result in bankruptcy to the utility company. He further stated that he believed he had some legal rights as a result of the contract and his construction of the utility company. While the contract does not provide that the state is required to purchase water from the Jean Utility Company for a definite number of years, Mr. Simon said he had built the utility company for the state and would rely on the contracts. He further said if the state were to cut him off completely, it would be wrong, regardless of any legal issue involved.

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Mr. Hancock commented that to have Desert Research Institute prospect for water "made good sense" since it would open the door as far as any future expansion the state might want to consider.

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Mr. Simon again told the committee that he too wanted lower water costs and if an agreement could be reached to form a district and have the district sell revenue bonds, the district could then do the exploration and bring the water into Jean. This would then be a deferred cost which could be extended over whatever financing could be obtained. It was Mr. Simon's opinion that very favorable financing could be obtained. He further stated that whatever decision was reached, it will cost substantially more in 2 years.

AB 64 and SB 81

Chairman Bremner reminded the committee of the testimony heard on April 27th regarding these two bills and said additional testimony would be heard at this time.

A copy of Mrs. Eileen Brookman's statements to the committee is attached as EXHIBIT A. She further referred to a letter dated March 5, 1981, which was sent to all Legislators by the Nevada State Advisory Committee to the Division for Aging Services, copy of which is attached as EXHIBIT B, and told the committee that Laura Tupper, Chairman of the Senior Political Action Federation, did not sign or condone the letter from that agency dated April 17th.

Chairman Bremner said the committee was endeavoring to determine why these bills were introduced and what the specific problems were in Las Vegas. Mrs. Brookman said that a very small group in Las Vegas believed they would get better service under an area agency and that someone from the southern part of the state should be director of the division. Mrs. Brookman did not agree with this group.

Mrs. Nellie S. Laird also appeared in opposition to the bills and a copy of her testimony is attached as EXHIBIT C.

Chairman Bremner said the committee had been requested to introduce a bill providing for payment of members of the Sanity Commission from Reserve for Statutory Contingency Fund under certain circumstances.

Mr. Vergiels moved for committee introduction of the bill and refer back to committee. Seconded by Mr. Glover and carried.

Also requested for committee introduction was a bill authorizing expenditure by State Public Works Board of additional federal money for a capital improvement project at the Army Aviation Support Facility at Stead.

Mr. Glover moved for committee introduction of the bill and refer back to committee. Seconded by Mr. Horn and carried.

Mr. Robinson requested authority to ask the bill drafter to explore legislation regarding a water district at Jean, Nevada. Chairman Bremner asked Mr. Robinson to discuss the matter with Mr. Bible.

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

* AB 586 † ACR 35
* as BDR 14-1832 † as BDR 1089

DATE: _____

4-29-81

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

GUEST LIST

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

REPRESENTING:

Larry Ketzenberger

LVMPD 1B380

EILEEN BROCKMAN

Dir. of Admin. S.F.P.D.

VELLIE LAIRD

ANTA/AARP - Nat. Assn. of State Legislators

CAROL E. HILL

ANTA/AARP - NE. & S.W. State Legislators

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TESTIMONY BY EILEEN BROOKMAN

I AM EILEEN BROOKMAN, A FORMER ASSEMBLYMAN FROM CLARK COUNTY, WHO HAS BEEN VERY ACTIVE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF AGING PROGRAMS IN NEVADA AND, IN FACT, WHO WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN GETTING ENABLING LEGISLATION FOR THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT THROUGH THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE WHICH PROVIDED FOR THE CREATION OF THE NEVADA DIVISION FOR AGING SERVICES.

I AM VERY DISTURBED BY WHAT SEEMS TO HAVE BECOME A BIENNIAL OBSESSION BY A HANDFUL OF CLARK COUNTY PEOPLE TO HAVE THE STATUS OF THE AGENCY CHANGE FROM A DIVISION TO A DEPARTMENT. THE ONLY CONSEQUENCES THIS COULD HAVE IS TO REDUCE SERVICES TO THE ELDERLY BY SEPARATING THE DIVISION FROM ITS SISTER AGENCIES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES, INCREASE ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS AS A RESULT OF BECOMING A SEPARATE ENTITY, AND WASTING A GOOD AMOUNT OF YOUR VALUABLE TIME.

I THINK IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL TO YOUR DELIBERATIONS TO GO BACK IN TIME TO WHEN NRS 427A WAS PASSED BY THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE AND THE RATIONALE FOR MAKING THE NEW OLDER AMERICANS ACT AGENCY A DIVISION WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES.

FIRST OF ALL, THOUGH SOME MAY THINK DIFFERENTLY, THE CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR AGING PROGRAMS HAVE A "SEED MONEY" CHARACTERISTIC. COMPARED TO OTHER SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAMS, THEY ARE MINIMAL AND INTENDED TO BE USED, TOGETHER, WITH OTHER FUNDING TO BROADEN EXISTING MEDICAL AND SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAMS TO INCLUDE ACTIVITIES TO MEET THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF THE ELDERLY.

THAT IS, FOR EXAMPLE, WHY HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAMS IN CLARK COUNTY ARE PLACED WITHIN THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE. WITH SMALL SUPPLEMENTS TO EXISTING PROGRAMS, THE ELDERLY CAN BE ASSURED OF ACCESS TO THE FULL RANGE OF COUNTY SERVICES, BOTH THOSE INTENDED SPECIFICALLY FOR THE ELDERLY AND THOSE AVAILABLE TO ALL SEGMENTS OF THE POPULATION ON A REFERRAL BASIS.

BY THE SAME TOKEN, PLACEMENT OF THE STATE AGENCY ON AGING WITHIN THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENTAL STRUCTURE GIVES THE STATE AGENCY DIRECT ACCESS TO ALL OF THE VARIED SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY OFFERED BY ALL OF ITS SISTER AGENCIES.

I UNDERSTAND THERE HAS BEEN A GREAT DEAL OF "TO-DO" ABOUT THE AMOUNT OF TITLE XX FUNDS THAT GO TO CLARK COUNTY, OR MORE SPECIFICALLY, TO LAS VEGAS. I DO NOT KNOW WHAT AMOUNTS AND PERCENTS YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN, BUT HAVING BEEN INVOLVED WITH AGING PROGRAMS AS LONG AS I HAVE, I STRONGLY REJECT ANY SUGGESTION THAT MORE DOLLARS EQUATE INTO MORE SERVICES - THAT IS BUNK. TAKE, FOR EXAMPLE THE EOB ELDERLY AND HANDICAPPED TRANSPORTATION PROJECT WHICH, IN EFFECT, IS ENABLED BY THE \$73,000 PROVIDED FOR OPERATIONAL COSTS THROUGH TITLE XX REIMBURSEMENT.

IN 1980, THIS PROJECT PROVIDED 77,721 RIDES FOR ELDERLY PERSONS: 27,851 FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES; 25,067 FOR NUTRITION PURPOSES; 12,649 FOR SOCIAL AND RECREATIONAL PURPOSES; 10,405 FOR SHOPPING AND PERSONAL PURPOSES AND I COULD GO ON.

BUT EVEN LOOKING AT THE CURRENT AGING SERVICES BUDGET, YOU FIND THAT 56 PERCENT GOES TO SOUTHERN NEVADA AND 52 PERCENT SPECIFICALLY TO CLARK COUNTY. IF THERE IS ANY UNFAIRNESS IN THIS DISTRIBUTION, I WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT 12 OF NEVADA'S COUNTIES RECEIVE ONLY 15 PERCENT OF THE AGING SERVICES' BUDGET. WASHOE COUNTY RECEIVES 29 PERCENT AND ALL OF NORTHERN NEVADA RECEIVES 44 PERCENT.

LET ME SAY THAT WHEN YOU CONSIDER ALL THE VARIOUS RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO GREATER LAS VEGAS - A HIGH TAX BASE; SOPHISTICATED PLANNING ACTIVITIES; ALL KINDS OF SOCIAL AND MEDICAL SERVICES - AND THEN YOU LOOK AT COUNTIES LIKE LINCOLN, EUREKA, NYE AND OTHERS THAT HAVE VERY LITTLE, YOU HAVE TO WONDER WHETHER MORE MONEY TO LAS VEGAS IS GOING TO HELP THOSE IN GREATEST "ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL" NEED IN NEVADA AND YOU HAVE TO WONDER ALSO WHAT THE RELATIONSHIP IS BETWEEN DOLLAR AMOUNTS AND WHETHER AN AGENCY IS A DEPARTMENT OR A DIVISION.

WE HAVE A WINNING TEAM, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. ANY COACH KNOWS YOU DO NOT MAKE CHANGES WHEN YOU HAVE A WINNING TEAM.

4/29/81

NEVADA STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE
DIVISION FOR AGING SERVICES

C O P Y

March 5, 1981

NOTE: This letter was sent to all Assemblymen.

The Honorable _____
Nevada State Assembly
Legislative Building
Carson City, NV 89710

Dear Assemblyman _____

This letter is written on behalf of the State Advisory Board to the Nevada Division for Aging Services. It is directed towards those legislators who are considering the alleged merits of Senate Bill No. 81 which proposes the elevation of the Division for Aging Services to departmental status.

The State Advisory Board strenuously objects to this proposed legislative action involving the Division. A departmental metamorphosis is factually unwarranted, cost ineffective, and substantively unsound.

The accomplishments of the Nevada Division for Aging Services speak for themselves. Operating as an umbrella agency (under the Department of Human Resources), the Division has succeeded in implementing and integrating a full-spectrum statewide service network. These services have been established within a state boasting the fastest growing senior population in the country. Such accomplishments have been made possible through a coordination of efforts with the Nevada Human Resources Department.

The above-mentioned achievements have been consummated under a tightly drawn budget that the Division must operate under and adhere to each fiscal year. In these times of fiscal restraint and budgetary cutbacks, the logic behind Senate Bill No. 81 seems arid and counterproductive.

The creation of an independent Department on Aging would most assuredly impose additional funding requirements on both the federal government and the taxpayers in this State. Any additional funding expenditures in this area (which would necessarily go hand in hand with this proposed measure) should be directed toward the most natural and obvious recipient(s) - the senior citizen programs within the State of Nevada.

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In conclusion, there can be no discernible advantage gained through a departmental conversion. The Nevada Division for Aging Services, operating as a part and parcel of the Human Resources Department, is providing quality services and programs to this State's senior citizens. In view of the above considerations and risks involved, why must this successful track record be tampered with?

Sincerely,

Mary Wild, Chairman
867 North Lamb, No. 241
Las Vegas, NV 89110

Syble Askenette
302 Paiute Street
Carson City, NV 89701

Eileen Brookman
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Ted Wemyss
1170 S. Taylor
Fallon, NV 89406

Mr. Chairman and Committee members
Nellie Laird, a member of the New South Wales Social Legislative Committee
4/29/81
NRTA/AARP

SENATE BILL 81 of the Sixty-first Session, 1981

Testimony by Nellie S. Laird of AARP - NSRTA

I. Statistics given at the hearing on S.B. 81 on Monday, April 27 have some implications with which I do not concur.

For example the quotation taken from a release dated November 1980 from the State Planning Coordinator's Office, to the effect: "UNOFFICIAL FIGURES INDICATE THAT THIS 15,17% SEGMENT OF CLARK COUNTY POPULATION COMPRISES MORE THAN 60% OF REGISTERED VOTERS". This seemed to intimate that control of the state could be captured by controlling the vote of the elderly.

LET ME POINT OUT THAT THE ELDERLY ARE JUST LIKE ANY OTHER SEGMENT OF THE POPULATION. THEY ARE INDEPENDENT THINKERS. SOME ARE FOLLOWERS BUT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO GET THEM TO VOTE AS A BLOCK. IF THEY DID NOT HAVE STRONG AND DIVERSE OPINIONS THEY WOULD NOT BE DISCUSSING POLITICS, NOR WOULD THEY BE EXERCISING THEIR RIGHT TO VOTE AS THEY DO. THEY ARE CONCERNED WITH ISSUES.

II. IN MY OPINION, THE CHANGE FROM A DIVISION OF AGING SERVICES TO A DEPARTMENT OF AGING SERVICES WILL NECESSITATE A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURES.

FOR EXAMPLE:

1. A DEPARTMENT MUST HAVE AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL ASSIGNED TO IT. I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS WOULD REQUIRE A SALARY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF \$25,000.

2. THERE WOULD BE THE COST OF MOVING THE OFFICES; PURCHASE OF ADDITIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES; POSSIBLE INCREASE IN RENTAL SPACE. I UNDERSTAND THAT IN A STATE BUILDING THE RENTAL SPACE IS 65¢ per SQUARE FOOT, WHILE OFFICE SPACE AROUND TOWN IS ABOUT 90¢ PER SQUARE FOOT. JUST THESE ITEMS WOULD MATERIALLY REDUCE FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR ACTUAL SERVICES TO THE ELDERLY.

III.

AS I READ THE REPORT OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS BY THE DIVISION OF AGING SERVICES, I FIND THAT SOUTHERN NEVADA (Clark, Lincoln, Esmeralda and Nye Counties) RECEIVES 56 % OF THE FUNDS.

THE OTHER 13 COUNTIES RECEIVE 44% OF THE FUNDS, BROKEN DOWN
THUS: 15% to the RURAL COUNTIES
 29% to WASHOE COUNTY

THIS WOULD SEEM TO ROUGHLY FOLLOW THE POPULATION DISTRIBUTION IN THE STATE.

IV. Because I believe SB 81 is designed to relieve the Aging Services of its present administrator I believe I should speak briefly in support of Mr. John McSweeny.

I believe I am in a position to do so since I have witnessed the things which happened preceeding his appointment and subsequently.

In 1968 I took a job as Consultant for the Nevada Library Association under a grant for the purpose of identifying publications relating to the aging, which should be placed in the libraries of Nevada. This was a pilot study conducted in the Silver Circle Libraries and the Nevada State Library. I worked on the project for 8 months and then when the State Legislature failed to fund Aging Services my job was terminated. Following that I was appointed to the State Advisory Committee of the Nevada State Library, to represent the Rural Counties and the Aging.

I witnessed the appointment of a number of directors of Aging Services many of whom served for only a month or two. Finally Jack Herrera was appointed and was making his plans when his appointment was abruptly terminated. It was decided to hold qualifying tests for the selection of a Director. A number of people took the test but apparently John McSweeny was the only one who studied to prepare himself. He passed far ahead of

competitors and in March 1972 was appointed by . . .

Governor Mike O'Callaghan

John McSweeney has built up the program, has eliminated duplication and waste, has adhered to the guidelines established for the service. He has widened the services at a minimum expense to the Division by bringing in qualified professionals who give volunteer time for counseling and other services and he has been most cooperative to those of us who are Senior Citizens. To me, his administration has meant ^{the} Continuity to Programs after a period of inept neglect to the needs of older people.

by the predecessors.