

MINUTES OF THE  
MEETING OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE  
ON FINANCE

SIXTY-FIRST SESSION  
NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE  
February 4, 1981

The Senate Committee on Finance was called to order by Chairman Floyd R. Lamb, at 8:00 a.m., Wednesday, February 4, 1981, in Room 233 of the Legislature Building, Carson City, Nevada. Exhibit A is the Meeting Agenda. Exhibit B is the Attendance Roster.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Floyd R. Lamb, Chairman  
Senator James I. Gibson, Vice Chairman  
Senator Eugene V. Echols  
Senator Thomas R.C. Wilson  
Senator Clifford E. McCorkle  
Senator Lawrence E. Jacobsen  
Senator Norman D. Glaser

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

(None)

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ronald W. Sparks, Chief Fiscal Analyst  
Dan Miles, Deputy Fiscal Analyst  
Tracy L. Dukic, Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

Bryn Armstrong, Chairman of the State Board of Parole Commissioners  
A.A. Campos, Chief Parole and Probation Officer  
Michael A. de la Torre, Director, Department of Law Enforcement Assistance  
Vern Calhoun, Chief, Investigation and Narcotics Division  
Jack Reynolds, Senator Lamb's intern  
Doris Palazzolo, Executive Director, SOICC

Chairman Lamb called the meeting to order and asked the Committee to reference Page 670, the Parole Board's budget.

Mr. Bryn Armstrong, Chairman of the State Board of Parole Commissioners, began by giving an introduction, explaining the process of granting parole and the functions and responsibilities of parole officers. He stated that the Parole Board had conducted 1,620 hearings in the last year.

Senator Lamb asked Mr. Armstrong how many prisoners had been re-incarcerated after being released.

Mr. Armstrong said that he did not have those figures with him, but that he would be able to supply them at another time. He also went into the problem they are having with drug and alcohol abuse among parolees and gave the statistics for this problem.

SALARY INCREASES AND IN-STATE TRAVEL

They have proposed salary increases for the Parole Board Chairman and the members of the Board and for a considerable increase in In-State Travel. He proceeded to give examples of comparable salary indicators from other states. He stated that the increase in In-State Travel was largely due to the makeup of the Nevada Prison System, i.e., the fact

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that it is so spread out. Mr. Armstrong indicated, also, that the new prison in Southern Nevada will require three Parole Board members and two clerical support staff to attend Parole Revocation and Statutory Goodtime hearings.

#### CONTRACT SERVICES

Mr. Armstrong proceeded to explain the process of utilizing contract services to provide for representatives to attend hearings. He stated that the need for such personnel will increase because of the growth in prison population.

Senator Lamb asked Mr. Armstrong why the agency request for Contract Services differed so much from the Governor's recommendation.

Mr. Armstrong indicated that the Parole Board's original request was to establish an office in Las Vegas, but that that request had been denied. Funds were provided instead for three Hearing Representatives to accommodate the new prison. He also indicated that there has been a 7% increase in the prison population each month coming up for parole, and that there will be 222 hearings heard by the end of Fiscal 1982. He further stated that another reason to contract for hearing representatives is that the case-load is increasing rapidly, and that the commissioners cannot handle the responsibility for hearing all the cases because they are responsible for collecting much of the research, doing investigative work and gathering all other pertinent information.

Senator Lamb inquired into the qualifications for hearing representatives.

Mr. Armstrong said that they try to find an individual with experience in related fields and someone who has the time to properly administer to the needs of the job.

Senator Gibson asked Mr. Armstrong why there had been a rent increase.

Mr. Armstrong indicated that this is a running controversy that comes up every two years in the middle of the biennium. He stated, though, that this figure may require more looking into because part of that is a request for more space for filing and one extra office for the requested new Commissioner. This office space would only be necessary if the Legislature grants the additional position requested.

Senator Jacobsen asked if there is more preparation required for the Parole Hearings.

Mr. Armstrong said that it is the nature of the offenders not the system that creates the need for more parole hearings. He stated that the offenders are more violent and more youthful.

Senator Jacobsen asked Mr. Armstrong if the criteria for paroling prisoners should be changed to cut down the number of hearings.

Mr. Armstrong indicated that this would be too costly for the State and that the criteria should not be meddled with.

Senator Lamb made the observation that the prisons are overcrowded to the point where new parole criteria may be supported to alleviate the burden of overpopulation.

Mr. Armstrong made the observation that overcrowding is no reason to review the parole criteria.

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Senator McCorkle asked Mr. Armstrong why their department is not requiring restitution as part of the parole program.

Mr. Armstrong indicated that it has been required in some cases, but it is not required if the earning power of the offender is too deficient to make restitution a viable alternative or if restitution might put the offender into a position where he would have to commit a crime to meet the indebtedness.

Senator Glaser asked Mr. Armstrong if, with the new prison going in, the Parole Board will be spending more time in Southern Nevada.

Mr. Armstrong said that the Parole Board plans to combine all hearings in a one-week period in Southern Nevada, but the hearing officers will be paid a per diem rate.

Senator Glaser then asked Mr. Armstrong why if the hearings are being combined into one trip, it is necessary to double the In-State Travel budget.

Mr. Armstrong said that they will be taking more people to handle this one-week set of hearings because of the volume of work.

#### PAROLE AND PROBATION

Senator Lamb then asked Mr. A.A. Campos, Chief Parole and Probation Officer, to present the Parole and Probation Budget.

Mr. Campos stated that there were very few increases in the budget. He explained the breakdown of the organization and named the functions of each office. He also supplied the Committee with a percentage success rate for Parole and Probation and the cost per individual for each program. He also indicated that last year, \$250,000 was collected in restitution as opposed to \$17,000 five years ago. He indicated that there had been a great deal of time spent on developing a methodology for restitution.

He then gave the Committee a list of prison pre-release work programs. He emphasized that when prisoners come up for parole, they are treated as individuals, not as a part of a group.

Mr. Campos then went on to say that the budget increase is based upon the increase in caseload and the addition of a clerical position and a physician for the prison going in in Southern Nevada. He said that all other positions are for line officers and clerical support staff. Mr. Campos indicated that the only way they can calculate how many positions will be needed is to look at the past and examine the workload. Mr. Campos said that within the last 18 years, the workload has increased 18.5% per year, but that, due to bills which are currently in the Legislature, this workload will be reduced to a 16.5% increase if these bills are passed. These bills would eliminate some of the Parole and Probation functions being done for the Judicial system in preparing Pre-Sentence Reports. Mr. Campos also indicated that this reduction in workload will be felt for the next few years to come and will affect future staffing requirements.

Mr. Campos then recited the additional positions being requested in the coming biennium. He stated that in the period of 1981-1982 the agency is requesting five officers, three clerical positions and the pre-release officer for the Southern Nevada facility, for a total of nine positions in the department. For the second year of the biennium, there is a slight increase because of reasons previously mentioned. There will be a need for 14 officers and four clerical positions, for a total of 18 positions. He allowed

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that this request seems large, particularly considering that these are austere times, but he asked the Committee to note that when the Parole and Probation Department came before them the last time, they had requested 57 new positions.

Mr. Campos told the Committee that nine bills have been introduced into the Senate Judiciary to cut costs in staffing and other areas.

Mr. Campos told the Committee that the other area of increase is in the Operating Costs, and he stated that this was due primarily to their losing the lease on their Reno office, which was costing them a lot less per square foot than their new office will be costing.

Mr. Campos indicated for the Committee that the In-State Travel will be increasing as a result of the cost of fuel. He stated that there has been a steady decrease in the number of personnel being allowed a vehicle.

Senator Wilson asked Mr. Campos about the reduction in State Travel expenses and what the reason for this is.

Mr. Campos indicated that the decrease is due to the elimination of the Tonopah Staff Meeting and, money was returned to the State General Fund last year, he pointed out.

Mr. Barrett added that because the number of new employees being added to the program is less, there will be less travel expenses required.

Senator Wilson indicated that he wanted to make certain that with less new staff and the increase projected in the workload whether or not the Parole and Probation Department can do an adequate job.

Mr. Campos stated that he felt this was possible.

Senator Lamb asked Mr. Campos why it would be necessary to loan a parolee money upon their release.

Mr. Campos said that this was to enable the new parolee to find housing and take care of his minimal needs until such time as he could effect employment and to prevent the necessity of his returning to crime in order to support himself.

Senator Lamb asked Mr. Campos is any of the money loaned was ever returned.

Mr. Campos indicated that 60% of the money loaned is returned.

Senator McCorkle asked about the number of outstanding warrants and if that number had been reduced.

Mr. Campos said that the number has risen from 400 to 800 outstanding warrants.

Senator McCorkle further explained that that situation was to have been remedied by the increase in staff.

Mr. Campos said that 50% of the outstanding warrants are parolees who have violated parole and left the program and that these people are very hard to track down.

Senator McCorkle asked Mr. Campos if the increase in workload and the decrease in staff will create more overtime charges for the Department.

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Mr. Campos told the Committee that it very well might result in more overtime for the clerical staff and the officers. Mr. Campos went on to explain that the ratio of officers to parolees has gone from 80 to 1 in Reno and 90 to 1 in Las Vegas in 1980 to a present ratio of 70 to 1 in Reno and 65 to 1 in Las Vegas.

Mr. Campos informed the committee that the Crime Commission Grant Program is defunct, and that there will be additional hearings on the Multi-Purpose Center if the bill that is being presented by the Senate Judiciary passes.

DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE

Senator Lamb asked Mr. Michael A. de la Torre, Director of the Department of Law Enforcement Assistance, and Mr. Vernon Calhoun, Chief of the Investigations and Narcotics Division, to give the presentation for the Department of Law Enforcement Assistance.

Mr. de la Torre began by showing a slide presentation illustrating all of the responsibilities and functions of his department and the programs instituted and developed to eliminate crime in the State of Nevada.

Mr. de la Torre then directed the Committee's attention to the LEAA Program phaseout and stated that they are currently trying to close out approximately 150 grants in this area. He stated that the phaseout should be completed by the end of next year. He stated that they are requesting that part of the accounting staff be retained to accomplish an orderly closeout, but he indicated that their salaries will be paid out of Federal funds.

Mr. de la Torre said that there is legislation being presented this session that will clarify the duties and functions of three positions by giving them formal titles to describe those duties and functions. He also indicated that two supervising aids and an accountant's position have been combined into one Management Assistant III position. He said that there had been some changes due to the shuffling and reorganization of the Department, but that their personnel being shuffled around were not laid off but merely reassigned to other agencies.

Mr. de la Torre indicated that they have arranged with the Federal government for them to subsidize the rental for their office until January 1982, at least \$8,800 dollars.

Senator Gibson asked Mr. de la Torre why, in the second year of the biennium, his department had requested two positions be added and the Governor recommended three.

Mr. de la Torre said that this was actually a reclassification of three positions into one, into the Management Assistant III position. He indicated that he had originally asked for a crime prevention specialist, but that the position was denied because of revenue problems. He added that this Crime Prevention Program costs a total of \$131,000 dollars per year with a contribution category amount to \$54,000 per year.

Senator Lamb asked what this \$54,000 thousand dollar amount represents.

Mr. de la Torre indicated that it is the cost of reproducing the posters which draw support from the community for the Crime Prevention Program and to make people aware of the alternatives available to them in fighting crime. He stated that this money is contributed from different service clubs in the community and that this is merely a request to receive approval for the contributions.

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In-State Travel was next discussed, and Mr. de la Torre explained to the Committee the purpose for this expense.

Senator Glaser asked Mr. de la Torre what had been eliminated from the Out-of-State Travel Budget to make it reflect such a significant decrease.

Mr. Barrett replied for Mr. de la Torre by saying that he had recommended that the Law Enforcement Assistance program utilize the \$75,000 dollar account available to all agencies for Out-of-State travel.

Senator McCorkle asked Mr. de la Torre how much out of the \$130,000 dollar figure for the Crime Prevention Program is actually spent on public education.

Mr. de la Torre indicated that the only portion spent on public education is derived from the \$54,000 thousand dollar amount contributed by the community, and it is only a small portion of that that goes to the Crime Prevention Officer who goes to different communities to inform the public of this program.

#### DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION AND NARCOTICS

Mr. de la Torre stated that as a part of the legislative package for the department as a whole, they are proposing to change the title of this division to the Investigations Division; to recategorize certain functions under the proper category.

Mr. de la Torre indicated that there are no additions or changes in the number of personnel.

Senator Lamb asked about the practice of buying information for drugs and if this is a valuable source of information for the Investigation and Narcotics Division.

Mr. de la Torre indicated that it is a valuable source of information for the prevention program.

Senator Lamb asked if the amount of money proposed is enough to get the job done.

Mr. de la Torre said that based upon a figure of \$2,200 per agent per year times the number of agents employed in this particular area, 29, he believes that this is a sufficient amount of money to get the job done. He said that part of this money is made available to other local law enforcement agencies for the purchase of drug related information.

Senator Wilson noted that with no additional personnel being added there will be an increase in the overtime budget if the workload increases as it has been doing.

Mr. de la Torre stated that they have been making an effort to reduce this expenditure every year and will try to stay within the budget allotted them for overtime.

Mr. Calhoun stated that the investigation agents are not encouraged to put in too much overtime because their productivity goes down; therefore, they are encouraged to cut down on overtime. He stated that this will be enough money for the overtime budget account.

Mr. Barrett added that there is a reduction of three agents, which is a figure of \$3,500 hundred dollars per agent per year, and this accounts for the reduction in the overtime category.

Senator Glaser indicated that he has received correspondence from the sheriffs in some of the smaller counties, and they are complaining that they do not receive the benefits of the training programs that Mr. de la Torre mentioned were available in his slide presentation.

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Mr. de la Torre said that he does not believe that this is the case and that they spend the greater portion of their time assisting the smaller rural counties in their investigations. He stated that part of the problem is the sensitivity these smaller counties have about having their toes stepped on.

Mr. de la Torre stated that their In-State Travel is for administrative purposes, and the amount allowed is acceptable to them.

Senator Gibson asked what "Lab Services" are.

Mr. de la Torre stated that this service was previously part of the Planning and Training Budget, but they feel it is more appropriate to put it in the Investigation and Narcotics Budget.

Senator Gibson asked if they were anticipating an increased workload in the private sector or countywide for lab services.

Mr. de la Torre replied that they were expecting an increased workload countywide. He stated that these labs are county labs not private.

Senator Lamb then asked the Committee to reference page 680, the Multi-State Project or RMIN -- the Rocky Mountain Information Network -- and he proceeded to tell the Committee that this is a Federally funded program. He gave the Committee the current employment status, but stated they were not requesting any new positions. He also explained some of the functions and coordination procedures of this program. Mr. de la Torre gave the Committee a synopsis of the current investigations being performed in conjunction with other states.

Senator Lamb asked Mr. de la Torre what his feeling is about the Federal funding continuing.

Mr. de la Torre said that there are some problems with getting the money in on time, but they wouldn't have many of the tools that they have without this program.

Mr. de la Torre then directed the Committee's attention to the Federal Grants portion of the budget and he stated that this is merely a request for authorization to receive these Federal grants.

He then directed the Committee to reference page 684, Peace Officer Standards and Training Budget, and indicated that he was very pleased with this program. He emphasized that he feels that there cannot be enough training of officers, and he went on to cite different programs to augment regular training sessions given. He told the Committee that they are requesting an additional week for training.

Senator Lamb then referenced the Committee to page 687, the budget for the Criminal Law Manual.

Mr. de la Torre stated that this sets up a revolving account when this manual is prepared, and the cost of producing this manual is covered by the sales generated from it.

#### STATE OCCUPATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Mrs. Doris Palazzolo, Executive Director, was to present this budget and Senator Lamb asked the Committee to reference page 16, the State Occupational Coordinating Committee budget.

Mrs. Palazzolo proceeded to explain the history, structure and present goals of the Committee, and she told the Committee that there will not be any increases in the number of positions for this organization.

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She told the Committee that part of what they are trying to do is to better inform the public about job opportunities and facilities available to them to receive training. As part of this program, the Committee is producing a newsletter that is circulated throughout the communities of Nevada.


Ms. Palazzolo stated that there is very little change in the budget largely due to the fact that the funding for this program is entirely Federal. She said that the only major reduction in this program would be the elimination of the Statewide Training Program. Ms. Palazzolo told the Committee that because their funding is entirely Federal, the budget request is merely a request for legislative authorization to receive funds from the National Occupational Organization.

Senator Gibson asked Ms. Palazzolo how effective she considered this program to be, especially the newsletter that is being distributed.

Ms. Palazzolo said that they have received a great deal of favorable response from the community about the newsletter, and it seems to be accomplishing more than had been hoped for, but that this program will be reviewed and analyzed by the National Occupational Organization for its efficacy.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

  
Tracy E. Dukic, Secretary

APPROVED BY:

  
Senator Floyd R. Lamb, Chairman

DATED: 2/18/81



SENATE AGENDA

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Committee on Finance , Room 231 .

Day (See Below) , Date (See Below) , Time 8:00 a.m.

Monday, February 2, 1981

1. Public Works Board (Pg. 132 - William Hancock)
2. Public Works Inspection (Pg. 135)
3. Office of the Governor (Pg. 2 - Greg Lambert)
4. Mansion Maintenance (Pg. 4)
5. Office of Operation Analysis (Pg. 6)

S.B. 49 - Transfers money from Public Health Sanitarian Funds to General State Fund.

S.B. 50 - Changes method of setting charges for materials distributed by State Forest and Firewarden.

Tuesday, February 3, 1981

1. Department of Prisons (Pg. 618-662...Charles Wolff, Director)
2. Parole Board (Pg. 670 - Bryn Armstrong)

Wednesday, February 4, 1981

1. Parole and Probation (Pg. 664 - Bud Campos)
2. Parole and Probation - Crime Commission Grants (Pg. 669)
3. Department of Law Enforcement Assistance (Pg. 673-687... Mike De La Torre)
4. State Occupational Coordinating Committee (Pg. 16 - Doris Palazzolo)

Thursday, February 5, 1981

1. Office of the Director - Department of Human Resources (Pg. 334 - Ralph DiSibio)
2. Youth Services Division (Pg. 343-369...Frank Carmen)

Friday, February 6, 1981

1. Economic Development - Gaming Anniversary (Pg. 338 - John MC Sweeney)
2. Division of Aging Services (Pg. 338 - John MC Sweeney)
3. Health Planning and Resources (Pg. 65 - Meryl Nygren)

ATTENDANCE ROSTER FORM

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

DATE: February 4, 1981

PLEASE PRINT	PLEASE PRINT	PLEASE PRINT	PLEASE PRINT
NAME	ORGANIZATION & ADDRESS		TELEPHONE
Bryn Armstrong	People's Board 309 E. Johnson		885-5049
Jack Reynolds	Inters		



ROBERT LIST  
Governor

MICHAEL A. de la TORRE  
Director

## Department of Law Enforcement Assistance

430 JEANELL DRIVE — CAPITOL COMPLEX  
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89710  
Telephone (702) 885-4404

### PLANNING AND TRAINING DIVISION

John Compston  
P.O.S.T. Coordinator

### INVESTIGATION AND NARCOTICS DIVISION

Vern Calhoun  
Chief

Carson City Office  
430 Jeanel Drive  
Carson City, NV 89710  
(702) 885-4408

Las Vegas Office  
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(702) 784-5617

Elko Office  
850 Elm Street  
Elko, NV 89801  
(702) 738-7211

TO: Senator Floyd Lamb, Chairman  
Senate Finance Committee

FROM: Michael A. de la Torre, Director *Michael*

SUBJECT: Department Functions

DATE: February 4, 1981

### I. Governor's Crime Prevention Program

1. Sexual Assault
2. Child Abuse and Neglect
3. Senior Citizen Protection
4. Juvenile Justice (Shoplifting, Vandalism, etc.)
5. Nevada Crime Watch

### II. Planning and Training Division

1. Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST)
2. LEAA Phaseout Resolution
3. Uniform Crime Reports (UCR)
4. Criminal Law Manual

### III. Division of Investigation and Narcotics

1. General Investigation Unit
2. Criminal Information Unit and Rocky Mountain Information Network (RMIN)
3. Technical Investigation Unit
4. Narcotics Investigation Unit
5. Diversionary Investigation Unit

IV. Administration of NRS Chapter 179A, the Nevada Records of Criminal History Act