

MINUTES OF THE
MEETING OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON HUMAN RESOURCES AND FACILITIES

SIXTY-FIRST SESSION
NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE
May 15, 1981

The Senate Committee on Human Resources and Facilities was called to order by Chairman Joe Neal, at 8:10 a.m., Friday, May 15, 1981, in Room 323 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. Exhibit A is the Meeting Agenda. Exhibit B is the Attendance Roster.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Joe Neal, Chairman
Senator James N. Kosinski, Vice-Chairman
Senator Richard Blakemore
Senator James Bilbray
Senator Wilbur Faiss
Senator Virgil Getto

GUEST LEGISLATOR PRESENT:

Assemblyman Robert Rusk

STAFF MEMBER PRESENT:

Joy-el McBride, Secretary

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 396

Assemblyman Rusk stated the basis of the government and economy is the private enterprise system and yet today there is widespread economic illiteracy particularly among the young people. In the minds of many young people they feel the government will solve the problems of better jobs, social security, more benefits, and regulation. They do not understand that in making these demands of the government, they must assume the burden of paying taxes. Assemblyman Rusk stated that in ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 396, these fundamentals be brought forth at the high school level. The bill starts out by striking out the existing section on thrift. The reason for that is that through testimony, the subcommittee that studied the private enterprise system learned the so-

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called mandatory direction of teachers in public school to teach subjects of thrift was not being done. For that reason they thought they would get into the thrift area but broaden it out and be more specific as to the who and the how.

Senator Bilbray said the biggest criticism the legislators have received is with the extra courses being put into the curriculum, the teachers cannot get down to the basic subjects. Assemblyman Rusk said it will be a portion of a mandatory course. They do not wish to create another course but make it a part of an existing course.

Senator Neal stated he felt college students could handle the course more objectively than high school students. Senator Blakemore said the bill refers to the economics of the American system. He said he feels it is important that students learn the system and agreed with the bill.

Mr. Fred Davis, from the Greater Reno-Sparks Chamber of Commerce and the Nevada Chamber of Commerce Association stated they are completely in support of the concept of SENATE BILL NO. 396 and urged the passage of it in as strong a form as possible. He added it is not necessary for the people in America to appologize for our economic system or system of government. He said the people should defend it to its fullest. He said students should be exposed to other systems of government but only as a matter of comparison. The results of a recent study conducted by the Chamber of Commerce of the United States in the Opinion Research Institute of Princeton University indicate that high school students have a somewhat different view of the private enterprise system than many imagine. For instance, sixty-seven percent of the students polled do not believe in the need for profit, eighty-two percent do not think there is competition in American business, sixty-two percent think the government has the responsibility to provide jobs, sixty-three percent were in favor of government ownership of banks, railroads and steel companies, fifty-six percent of the girls and fifty-two percent of the boys had no opinion whether or not government should take over industry, sixty-one percent rejected the profit incentive is necessary for the survival of a free enterprise system, sixty-one percent felt the federal government contributed the most to national prosperity.

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Senator Neal stated the laissezfaire doctrine worked at one particular time in this country. This doctrine led the United States into the depression. There were no taxes. Then the government got involved as employer as the last result. Even big corporations go out to get big contracts from the federal government. Some people feel government should not be involved. Senator Neal said he clearly feels that it should. Mr. Davis said he did not suggest that government does not have a role, but perhaps the role has become an oppressive burden on the taxpayer.

Senator Neal said somebody has to control waste dumps such as the one at the Love Canal. The government had to go back and clean the canal. He then said business can be vicious and business can be good. They should not be lumped all together.

Mr. Leonard Dalton, Superintendent of Washoe County School District, admitted they do need to do a better job in teaching the economic systems, especially the free enterprise system, however they have concerns about the bill. He said he did not agree with the 20 hours mandated by the bill for study of private enterprise. He felt the bill should state 20 hours or the equivalent in competency because alot of students who should be given credit for what they can do; not how long they warm a chair. Mr. Dalton also stated he would hope they would have more time to develop the course and competancies.

Mr. Dick Wright, Washoe County School District, stated his concern with the bill is in the 20 hours that is compulsory for studying the course.

Mr. Robert Linderman, a registered lobbyist for the American Civil Liberties Union of Nevada stated with the bill as a whole, his people do not have any problems with it. However, he does see problems in the bill in several areas. He said on line 12 where the bill addresses the emphasis of benefits of free enterprise compared with other economic systems. He shares Senator Neal's question on what is meant by free enterprise. He also questioned whether the school should teach a political value system.

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Senator Getto said he was concerned about the teachers' freedom and that the bill possibly would narrow down their freedoms.

Ms. Carol Volardo representing Citizens for Private Enterprise stated she has a personal concern with SENATE BILL NO. 396 because she does teach part-time at a community college. She said she finds most of her students cannot spell which indicates the teachers are not finding enough time to teach basics. She continued by adding on page 2 the bill stated teachers would provide instruction on personal financing. She said that should be as much a mandatory subject as anything else in school. She urged the committee to pass the bill.

Mr. Wendell Newman from the Department of Education stated he had no official position on SENATE BILL NO. 396, however, they do have some concerns. They wondered if the bill was necessary when it is being taught to some extent in public schools at the present time.

Senator Kosinski asked Mr. Newman if he saw any problems with the bill for different school districts. Mr. Newman said yes, in the small counties. He said it would be more difficult for the smaller counties to implement the course by September of 1981.

Mr. Chuck Neely, representing Clark County School District, stated they support the idea of the bill, but oppose several points in the bill. He said the bill makes the course mandatory for 20 hours and he felt the basic areas of free enterprise are already being covered in the schools. He recommended an amendment be added to the bill on page 1, line 9, after the words "State of Nevada", the words "as one element comprising at least 20 hours of a required course" be deleted and at the end of the bill to state the bill would not become law until September, 1982.

Mr. John Hawkins of the Nevada State School Board said that the 20 hours specified in the bill constitutes a problem. He said that represents about 12 percent of the teaching time for a full year's course. It would mean something would have to be taken out. He said he was glad to see thrift removed from school curriculums.

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Mr. Tom Young, executive manager of the Nevada Environmental Action Trust, spoke in support of SENATE BILL NO. 396.

SENATE BILL NO. 549


Senator Kosinski said he would take the amendments from Mr. Merv Flanders for SENATE BILL NO. 549 to Will Crockett.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:02 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Joy-el McBride, Secretary

APPROVED BY:


Senator Joe Neal, Chairman

DATE: May 25, 1981

SENATE AGENDA

EXHIBIT A

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Committee on Human Resources and Facilities, Room 323
Day Friday, Date May 15, Time 8:00 a.m.

A. B. No. 396--Requires instruction in American system of free enterprise.

S. B. No. 549--Authorizes use of guide dog and cane by deaf person and makes various other statutory amendments to protect visually and aurally handicapped persons--WORK SESSION

