

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

ASSEMBLY, NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE, SPECIAL SESSION, 1966

Meeting was called to order by Chairman James Gibson at 2:04 P.M. Thursday, May 19, in Ways and Means Committee Room.

Present: Jones, Pozzi, Bastian, Bailey, Young, Johnson, Bunker, Glaser, Gibson

Absent: None

Present to present Highway Department requests were Inspector Ron Cassingham of Nevada Highway Patrol and Don F. Brown, Superintendent, Nevada Highway Patrol, as well as Robert Guinn of the Motor Transport Association. Also present was Budget Director Howard Barrett. Bob Mitchell of Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce and Assemblyman Lawrence Jacobsen were observers, as were University of Nevada (Southern) students Brian Harris and Tom Hribar.

Chairman Gibson said he would like to have the facts on SB 2 and asked Mr. Brown to explain his emergency problem. A district map was set up showing highway patrol zones and districts. Individual maps were also passed out to Committee members. Mr. Brown read from a prepared statement containing facts on lack of traffic supervision in Nevada and high death rate. He asked if members had had a chance to look over a study given them the day before. Mr. Gibson said they probably hadn't had much time. Mr. Brown read from the study. Discussion of critical need for extra men and how they would be used. Mr. Jones brought up situation at Mercury during peak hours. Mr. Brown said help would be forthcoming from Las Vegas if 5 additional men assigned there. Discussion of federal bill, whether government would set up standards, set miles one patrolman would handle. Need for 15 additional men immediately, 30 per year for next 4 years. Discussion on reduction of speed law in national act, as Nevada is only state in union with no speed limit. Discussion by Mr. Bailey as to primary duties of Highway Patrol, inspection, etc. Discussion by Mr. Guinn of matching federal funds. He said the Highway Department had assured him that fund could stand the appropriation and not face the prospect of any shortage of highway funds with respect to matching federal funds. He told of a plan used in California whereby a vehicle fee of \$3.00 was charged, and suggested some sort of surcharge in Nevada to raise money. He said he felt the highway patrol was grossly understaffed.

Chairman Gibson asked Mr. Barrett about the constitutional requirement re diversion of funds. Mr. Jacobsen commented on citations issued for not stopping when passing school buses. Discussion of SB 2; federal money for construction. Mr. Brown discussed SB 2 further and statewide tele-communication system. Further discussion of state setting up realistic standards.

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A recess was called at 2:48 P.M. Meeting resumed at 2:53.

John Bunten, Director, Vocational Education and John McCarthy, State Supervisor, Vocational Technical Education Division were present and introduced Mr. Mike Russo of Washington, D. C., Department of Health, Education and Welfare and who is in charge of facilities for area vocational schools in the United States as far as the U. S. Department of Education is concerned. He had been asked to evaluate Stead Air Force Base facilities as requested for use by Mr. Bunten's department. Mr. Russo stated his evaluation had nothing to do with the University's request at Stead. Mr. Russo presented his views on the facility, which indicated costs would be prohibitive and the facility would be only a second rate installation. Mr. Gibson said his opinions generally confirmed the feelings of Committee members. Dr. Russo pointed out that only a shell was being left after equipment needed for Viet Nam had been removed.

Mr. Johnson left at 3:30.

Mr. Bunten said he felt that if the job couldn't be done right it shouldn't be done at all and in view of Dr. Russo's report his department would withdraw the application for use of facilities at Stead.

Mr. Gibson asked Mr. Russo if he had been involved in the Clark County program. Mr. Russo said he had not.

Mr. McCarthy discussed genuine need still existing for an area vocational school in northern Nevada and also commended Mr. Bunten for playing fair and square with the people and the Legislature. Chairman Gibson said the Committee members all shared this feeling toward Mr. Bunten and the desire that something be done in the future.

Mr. Johnson back, 3:35. Chairman Gibson called a recess. Meeting resumed at 3:45. All members present except Mr. Bunker, who returned at 3:58. Mr. Knisley came in.

Present from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources was Director Elmo DeRicco. Also present, Roland Westergard, Assistant State Engineer. Under discussion was AB 8, money for payment of attorneys' fees and court costs incurred in acquisition of land for Lake Tahoe State Park. Mr. DeRicco was asked to give background on the situation. He told of \$50,000 granted by Fleischmann Foundation and said the Attorney General asked him to request \$50,000. also. If this is not needed, it will revert to the General Fund. Chairman Gibson asked about negotiations with owner (Whittell). Mr. DeRicco said the Government is not going to release information on the matter until they felt it would not harm the program. Mr. Gibson said in view of the sensitivity of the gentleman they are dealing with condemnation

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money appropriation might hurt the cause. Mr. DeRicco said condemnation would be used as a last resort. Mr. Knisley said if they are not going to condemn, \$50,000 attorney fee is not needed. He surmised acquisition price must be about \$5,000,00.00. Discussion on fact public pressure will not permit avoidance of condemnation if acquisition by negotiation is not successful.


SB 5. Mr. Westergard explained problem of sewage effluent from the Tahoe Basin and disposal of and discussed Interstate Compact Commission suit over how much water can be diverted to Nevada. If a suit is filed, a man will be needed primarily to accumulate information and evidence. Discussion of his salary and whether a good man can be gotten for \$10,440.00.

Mr. Bastian left at 4:09.

Mr. Barrett explained that if a good man could not be found at the salary indicated, they were authorized to go to upper steps until a qualified person was attracted. Mr. DeRicco finished his presentation and left at 4:12. Mr. Knisley left at 4:14.

Nevada Southern University students Brian Harris and Tom Hribar spoke on need for a Student Union Building at Nevada Southern. They said the students were willing to pay for their own building if they can get emergency moneys needed. Mr. Pozzi asked how much each student would pay. Discussion of tuition fees.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:25 P.M.


James I. Gibson, Chairman


Agnes M. Nelson,
Committee Stenographer