

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

ASSEMBLY, NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE, SPECIAL SESSION

1966

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Gibson at 9:08 A.M., Wednesday, May 25, 1966 in Ways and Means Committee Room.

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

Absent: Young

Present also were Robbins Cahill, Clark County Manager; Wallace White of the Health Division and Quenten Emery of the Welfare Department. Also present as interested members were Assemblymen R. Guild Gray and Mel Glose - Ray Knisley, briefly; members of the press and Bob Mitchell of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce; William Goni, Chairman, Ormsby County Commissioners; Howard Barrett, Budget Division.

Mr. Cahill explained the purpose of Title 19, which AB 23 initiates in Nevada - assistance for medically indigent. Mr. Cahill said it is actually a companion bill to Title 18 of the Social Security Act and is commonly referred to as Medicare. Heretofore it has been financed by counties. It takes care of those not on public assistance rolls and not over 65. By 1970 it will be State and Federal on a 50-50 basis he said. Presently there are no facilities in the State of Nevada or convenient elsewhere to develop the program. Hospitals are running 90% occupancy now. Mr. Cahill distributed estimate sheet showing county participation. Discussion of what counties have done in the past and cost of program. Mr. Glaser asked for clarification. Mr. Cahill said Kerr Mills is now referred to as MAA and that Kerr-Mills is absorbed by Title 19, which combines all medical care to indigents. Chairman Gibson asked for definition of indigent and whether most decisions will be made at the State level. Mr. Emery said yes, they would be, and added remarks re differences between Medicare and Title 19. He also explained need for additional personell. Chairman Gibson asked if the positions had been approved. Mr. Emery explained that he would work with Mr. Barrett as need arose. Mr. Barrett explained that they would be kept within a separate work program, not mixed in with the regular welfare budget. Chairman Gibson asked whether the Federal Government had approved the plan. Mr. Emery said it had been presented to them and they were to call if there were any objections. So far no call had been received. Discussion of what cost would be - about \$3,000,000 a year. Discussion of how it would be met - ad valorem tax out of county discussed. Chairman Gibson asked if they could call the Federal man today. Mr. Barrett said Russ McDonald had called their representative, who had not had time to review the bill yet but who would call back as soon as he did so. Chairman Gibson asked about the language of the bill under Section 18, whether or not it was Federal language. Mr. Emery said it was indicated by federal regulations. Discussion of money transfer.

Mr. Goni explained counties' hesitancy in accepting plan at first. They didn't want to lose all authority but decided they would anyway. In order to know what they will have to work with by the next session of the Legislature, they thought it best to go into the program now.

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Chairman Gibson asked for discussion of AB 17, saying he understood grants to old age people would be reduced by 15%. Mr. Emery confirmed this, explained deficit in state fund.

Hearing concluded at 9:55. Participants left. Chairman Gibson asked Committee members to remain. He presented an amendment to the school aid bill which he said he had forgotten to consider when the bill was passed out but which had been previously discussed. He read the amendment and received Committee approval to propose it as a Committee amendment.

AB 17 - Mr. Bunker moved to reconsider. Chairman Gibson said no motion was necessary. He said uncertainty about the cost had been what was causing problems. He said the bill had to be amended, that he would get the amendments prepared and put it out.

Chairman Gibson said he wanted to check one or two more things on Title 19 - that he would check with Russ McDonald before acting on it and would probably call the Committee back into session some time this day.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 A.M.

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James I. Gibson, Chairman



Agnes M. Nelson  
Committee Stenographer