

Assembly

Informal Meeting, Agriculture Committee, 55th Session, Feb. 20, 1969
10:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Getto, Roy Young, Dini, Howard attended briefly

ABSENT: Bryan Hafen, Brookman, Close

GUESTS: Emile J. Iratcabal, McCoy Meat Company
Eddie Bracken, Ruby Mountain Packing
Bill Mendes, Carson Valley Meats
Louie Jorgenson, Everbest Sausage
Ray Knisley; Mr. Hicks
Russell Nielsen--Press

Informal meeting called in order that the guests could discuss the proposed meat bills.

Iratcabal stated that the number of inspectors required was way out of proportion. There are eight or ten plants in Reno that will have to have inspectors. All are federal with the exception of one; Federal government wants the states to take over the whole program. If we come up with an act we will have to conform with the federal act.

Dini If you adopt the state plan you still couldn't ship across the state line.

Getto The 25th we will have the Health Department here and also someone from the Agriculture Department, then you can ask them your questions.

Question: Is there any way this budget can be trimmed?

Answer: The basic cost of the whole thing is the inspectors.

Bill Mendes, Carson Valley Meats. I would like to know how we in the meat-packing industry are going to be better off. This is a man made disaster. If we have to meet these codes and specifications I would like to see the Nevada State Legislature help us to build better meat-packing houses and let the Federal Government pay the bills.

Jorgenson - Everbest Sausage. There are 23 meat-processing plants in Reno. We would appeal to the Federal Government to set up small business loans so we could participate in laws to update our plants.

Mendes -These funds were supposed to be available, but so far we've heard nothing. The interest rates will kill us.

Howard -If we pass this legislation you will have to live by the State Code.

Jorgenson - It's guys like myself that keep these majors in line and customers profit. If it gets into the hands of big majors we are all going to pay.

Mendis - Would it go faster in Washington if they had to appropriate money to rebuild all across the United States? They created this problem. They can afford to ship to Peru, financed by the Federal Government. Are we going to be let die because we are a minority

industry? I don't think there has been enough fuss raised about this.

Getto - Even though we have the money and have our inspectors the Federal Government can still come in and condemn it.

Jorgenson - The state strongly wants warehouses in industry and we have been completely thrown on the wayside. All I can say is we don't have a leg to stand on. They haven't even appropriated the money for this inspection.

Bracken - They don't even have the inspectors to fill the program.

Jorgenson - We are voted down by the A.M.I. I will tell you one thing. You can go to any one of these meat plants, and federal inspection is rough, you will find no cleaner plants than in the State of Nevada. I have been in this business for 30 years. This was brought before the "Big 4." We are talking and not accomplishing a damn thing.

Mendis - I received a letter from Washington that when you write your meat bill you put in a clause that if the United States Government does not appropriate the funds, the State of Nevada will absorb the full cost.

Iratcabal - If they did appropriate the money they would close these plants overnight. If all these meat businesses did fall into majors' hands it would break all small meat companies.

Knisley - When is the deadline that you have to come under federal inspection?

Iratcabal - After December 15th Federal men can walk into the plant with no notice. You have one little discrepancy and they close your doors.

Knisley - Well, it seems to me that you need to work on Congress to give you more time and then let Nevada finance their own inspection.

Mendis - We are in here to look for leniency.

Knisley - There is a new administration. It is not impossible that Congress could not put on enough heat to get that moved 6 months or 1 year ahead.

Jorgenson - Not much sense in funding this program if state boys are going to be just as tough as federal.

Getto - Have to figure cost of training and that can be a burden to the state.

REMARKS: The State will kill us off because of the Federal Government-- the State is ignorant of what is going on. The State has received no particulars. Our state inspectors have no authority to invoke this at all. If we have to comply with this -- we have heard nothing; no money has been appropriated and our state inspectors are as ignorant as we are. We don't know what is going on -- we have to know.

It will cost me \$70,000 minimum.

Roy Young -- If we passed something like this would it assist you?

Mendes -- With state inspection we will receive a little leniency. I am concerned whether the Federal Government will give us time to comply -- will they give us time?

Iratcabal -- Here we are trying to build something to fit against a program that was fraudulent.

Getto -- You can see the hesitancy of the state if it is fraudulent.

Dini -- If we update our inspection law and then implement what we think we can get by with for inspectors and if we can prove we can do just as good a job with less inspectors?

Bracken -- There is one inspector in Reno taking care of three plants, so I don't see where it takes all these inspectors.

Iratcabal -- You take an inspector who reads the book and doesn't understand conditions, he can make it rough; you are out of business anyhow. How strict are they going to be?

Jorgenson -- What are we going to have to abide by?-- Sanitation is a must. We don't know how the federals are going to be.

Hicks -- In order to justify the system of state plants we need to approach them for two reasons:

1. Justify it to the feds that state plants are a necessity.
2. We need to ask for a moratorium to get our house in order. We have to justify the need for small plants.

Mendes -- It is going to cost money to get our house in order.

Hicks -- We need plants in Nevada so maybe we should have special consideration for a year.

Jorgenson -- If this had happened 10 years ago, the "Big 4" have lost money in the last five years. So what do you think the little guy is doing? Of all times to apply heat is now--the meat industry is at its lowest ebb. Major packers have lost money.

Getto -- Will ask for a breakdown from the Health Department and see how they come up with this figure. One inspector I think could cover three plants.

COMMENT:-- Are their specifications so tight that this is what we have to live with?

Mendis -- Can we accept the word of Amsiejus?

COMMENT: No, he goes strictly by the book.

Jorgenson -- I think our inspection should be under the Department of Agriculture.

Assembly

Informal Meeting, Agriculture Committss, 2/20/69, page 4

34

Iratcabal -- This happened to me -- I told this inspector (I won't mention any names) -- I told him I was going to duplicate this product. I want to make it here. He says if you do I will have you in jail. I said well, I am going to bring this product back and if you want to throw me in jail I am only a couple of miles away. I have made thousands of pounds of it and nothing was ever done. It depends on the inspector.

Jorgenson --As long as a product is wholesome and is eatable then why should some state inspector hold us down on this point?

After the 15th we have their set of rules to go by and that will be all there is to it.

Getto asked whether they could come back to a hearing on Tuesday. The answer was in affirmative, adding they had to get funds some place to comply with Federal Government.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.