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MINUTES OF MEETING ON AGRICULTURE - 55th Nevada Assembly
Virgil Getto, Chairman

Thursday, Feb. 27, 1969

Chairman Getto called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. and introduced the following guests: Assemblyman Lawrence Jacobson, Ray Knisely, and George Sabatini from the Division of Forestry. *Sabatini*

Members Present: Getto, Brookman, Close, Young, Howard, Dini and Hafen.

Absent: None

Assemblyman Close introduced suggested changes to A.B. 121, which revises law relating to labeling, sale and transportation of seeds. Executive estimate of cost: None (BDR 51-283). (They are attached to the minutes of the meeting as Exhibit "A").

Comments regarding Mr. Close's suggested changes to A.B. 121 are as follows:

Close: Sec. 21 refers to "weeds that are objectionable".

Getto: "In the amendment, we will have the list of noxious weeds written right into the Statute".

Dini: "Can we put in the Statutes that the Department of Agriculture has the authority to change?"

Brookman: "How old is the present list (of noxious weeds)"?

Getto: "I think it is constantly reviewed and brought up to date".

Close: "Referring to Sec. 37, Page 4, Line 23"---

Young: "Subject to the regulations of the Department."

Close: "Reference Par. 2, Sec. 37, "lot" is being taken out. Substitute quantity of seed, add "or screenings".

Dini: "Then in Lines 34 and 36, after the word "seed" you would add the word "screenings"? Also Line 45?"

Close: "In line 38 take out "telegram". We want to be able to notify them by other means as well". (after the word shipper in line 37, add "or consignor".

Dini: "Sec. 49 - We contacted people in the potato industries and asked them for their comments."

Mr. Close Referred to Sec. 50, Sub. Par. 7, Line 42, Page 9, "Which contain more than 2½ percent by weight of all weed seeds". and Sec. 47, Sub. Par. (i), Line 46, Page 8 "The name and address of the person who labeled the seed, or who sells, offers or exposes the seed for sale within this state".

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Mr. Knisely made reference to NRS 555.130, which he said, defines noxious weeds." For Mr. Close's use in defining noxious weeds".

Chairman Getto asked for a motion to accept Mr. Close's proposed amendments to A.B. 121.

Motion to accept amendment made by Dini. Seconded by Howard. Unanimously carried.

A.B. 320 - Allows state forester firewarden to enter into contracts, conduct studies and perform work to restore forests and vegetative cover.

Mr. Jacobsen - "This originated from State Forester George Sabatini. Over the years, we are having more and more fires on the water sheds. Methods have been devised to control these fires. We have entered into an agreement with the County and the City to Rehabilitate Ash Canyon burn. We need authority to enter into rehabilitation work, and that is what this bill is for. It allows us to enter into work on terracing, trees, grades, etc. We have been doing this without authority. There is a great deal of public interest in this large burned area, and it has been very evident that it needs some coalition. The Division of Forestry, is the obvious one to handle it." He then referred to Sec. 1, Sub. Par. 4, which states, "The state forester firewarden, or his agents, may enter, inspect and perform work upon any land for the purposes set forth in this section".

"This will take away many of the objections. We felt it necessary to put in 'any land'".

Howard (to Sabatini) - "Wouldn't you have the power invested in you in case of an emergency?"

Sabatini: "With bugs, but not with rehabilitation. We have an agreement with land owners - contracts to do certain work."

Mrs. Brookman asked if Indian lands would be covered in this bill?

Mr. Getto said Indian lands were covered under Mr. Jacobsen's amendment.

Mrs. Brookman asked what provision there was for Indian land.

Mr. Sabatini replied that all Indian lands are held in trust, as far as fire control.

Mrs. Brookman said the authority should be there, "that we could go in".

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Jacobsen: Perhaps a corroborative agreement with Federal agencies?"

Brookman concurred.

Close made reference to NRS 555.235. "Who pays for all this?"

Sabatini: "We have no appropriation at the present time. In the past, we have asked for donations. In the case of Ash Canyon burn, we are trying to get Federal funds. We have our Senators and representatives working on this at this time".

Young: "Is this Bureau of Land Management?"

Sabatini: "No, mostly Carson Water Company."

Getto: "Is that a private water company?"

Sabatini: "It is owned by Southwest Gas Company. We have re-seeded by helicopter. Southwest Gas provided the seeds and paid for the rental of the helicopter."

Jacobsen: "Many groups and organizations have been involved."

Getto asked for a motion to accept Mr. Jacobsen's amendments as proposed.

Howard made the motion to accept Mr. Jacobsen's amendments as proposed to A.B. 320. Dini seconded.

Howard changed the wording of his motion to read DO PASS with amendments. Seconded by Dini. Unanimously carried.

A.B. 420 - Amends weed control district law. (BDR 49-616).

Mr. Ray Knisely: - "As presently written, this section provides that 65% of the county may set up a weed control district. In our area particularly, we have one land owner that could propose weed control on the whole area. A.B. 420 says there are to be a majority of owners and assessed valuation before it can be set up. It also provides that 3,000 acres can't be burned. The man with 5 acres should have as much right as the man with 3,000 acres. He asks for a public hearing to give everyone a right to be heard.

After the district is set up, and the directors chosen, they have to write the regulations for their area. The theory of the Act is that each land owner should take care of his own weeds, with directors set up to see that he does it. It puts the burden back on the individual land owner to take care of his own problems. The farmers in our area want it very badly, and are handicapped by the Department of Agriculture's decision. While

my land is not effected, if the majority in the district wants it, I would join in. The largest cattle grower, and the largest seed grower are proponents.

Getto: "Have you discussed this with any of your people?"
(To Mr. Jacobson).

Jacobson: "I talked to the Chairman of the Board. They can find no objection".

Mr. Knisely made reference to NRS 555.200. for the use of the committee in making their decision.

Young: "Is that all Federal land? The County has to pay for it?"

Knisely: "That is in the old Act."

Getto: "We have the same problems with the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District. If they don't spray their ditches and access roads, we have the same problem as cited there".

Mr. Howard made reference to Sec. 6, Line 30, Sub. Par. 1, "The board of directors shall prepare regulations for the weed control district, which shall include but are not limited to--- and Sub. Par. 2, "One copy of the proposed regulations shall be delivered to the state quarantine officer ---"

Mr. Knisely said the State Quarantine Officer is also by statute the State Feed Control Officer, who is Lee Burge."

Mr. Knisely said further, "Cattle are one of the first offenders in spreading weeds. The amendment provides that they must be confined for 36 hours before they are put out to pasture, and their manure composed for one year. The second worst offender is the traveling harvester coming in from outside the district. They must steam clean their equipment to prevent spreading of weed seeds.

Grain brought in from outside the State will be covered in the regulations."

Referring back to Sec. 6, Mr. Knisely said, "First the Board prepares the regulations, and these directors are not selected by the weed control district, but by the county. Then they post the regulations, and the State Quarantine Officer comes in. Then, after the hearing, which is the Department of Agriculture (Gallaway) then the Quarantine Officer decides if he approves. After the hearing, if he promulgates this regulation, then the Board and the Department of Agriculture doesn't agree, no place do the people have the right to establish their own regulations."

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Close: "Once the people decide to have a weed control district, after that appointment, they no longer have any control over this district? I don't mind the appointment, but somewhere I think the people should come back into it."

Young: "Could they get into these public hearings?"

Close: "Yes, but they would have no power to take any action. If they object, then the State Quarantine Officer comes in. He overrules the Directors."

Knisely: "The control of weeds is a highly technical problem. We have to have some uniformity in this weed control. The man chosen will be the only man in the area who will have knowledge of the different sprays and the method of application. I feel that an election of these man will be effective."

Close: "I don't want to elect them. I want them to be appointed. I'm all for the appointment of the State Quarantine Officer. The Directors are overruled by the Quarantine Officer and the State Department of Agriculture."

Mrs. Brookman asked permission of the Chairman to be excused, as the Clark County Delegation was having a hearing.

Chairman Getto announced no action would be taken on A.B. 420 today, and announced there would be future hearings on this bill, as well as 367 and 369.

Mr. Jacobsen said the Nevada Cattlemen's Association want to be heard on A.B. 367.

Chairman Getto set a tentative date for the hearing of A.B. 367, 369 and 420 for March 17th, which he said, was the same date set for their cocktail party.

A.B. 38 - Authorizes state dairy commission to administer and regulate use and labeling of substitute dairy products (mentioned in the meeting as having received a "DO PASS" recommendation out of Committee on January 23rd. Feb. 4 - Read third time, passed as amended, Title approved as amended, to Senate. Feb. 5, In Senate, Read first time, Referred to Senate Committee on Public Resources.)

Mr. Young asked where the Soil Conservation Bill was? Mr. Getto replied it was still in Russ McDonald's office being drafted.

Meeting was adjourned at 12 Noon.