

Assembly

MINUTES OF MEETING - COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS - 55TH NEVADA ASSEMBLY SESSION
JANUARY 30, 1969

Present: Swallow, Frazzini, Schouweiler, Homer, Hilbrecht and Reid

Absent: Foote

Chairman Swallow convened the meeting at 8:00 a.m. and Mr. Schouweiler introduced Dr. Hulse from the History Department of University of Nevada.

Dr. Hulse announced that he was speaking on behalf of himself and not as a spokesman for the University and continued with his presentation to the committee. He noted the outdated procedures now being used in selecting presidential candidates and stated that the conventions as they are now held have become very tedious affairs, especially to the younger delegates. This was due mainly to the fact that the same election procedures established so long ago are still being used today.

Chairman Swallow introduced A.B. 4, Mr. Hilbrecht's bill which creates presidential primary elections, and requested suggestions from Dr. Hulse regarding same. He noted in Section 9 that it states no more than three delegates are from the same party. Discussion was held as to whether or not it should have read "county" rather than "party".

Mr. Reid asked Dr. Hulse if he did not feel a presidential primary would further hamper the candidate in view of the present high cost of campaigning. Dr. Hulse stated that it was possible that there could be an increase in cost to the candidates. Discussion was held regarding the costs involved in elections and Chairman Swallow introduced Mrs. Esther Nicholson, representative of the League of Women Voters. Mrs. Nicholson provided copies of the Presidential Primary Study by Mr. Arthur J. Palmer to those present. She noted that costs were discussed in this study although they would possibly need to be adjusted to present standards.

Mrs. Nicholson then presented the position of the League of Women Voters wherein she stated that A.B. 4 had been completely supported by them. She cited a past amendment to the election laws which upon being put into affect proved to be completely unworkable in connection with the other statutes. She provided the committee with copies of the State Continuing Responsibility Background Sheet No. 4 wherein five requirements were set forth in the criteria, all of which were met by A.B. 4.

Mr. Reid noted that the bill allows a candidate's name to be placed in the primary by persons other than the candidate himself and asked if that might not create problems. Mr. Hilbrecht stated that Section 13 thereof allows the candidate to withdraw his name upon his signed statement. Further discussion was held as to the effect of these provisions.

Mr. Hilbrecht stated that he felt earlier primaries would be of benefit to Nevada and that he planned to draft an amendment to this effect. The purpose of having earlier primaries would be to get the viewpoints of the candidates to the public perhaps as early as March, even though the number of delegates allowed to the state would not have been determined at that time. Mr. Schouweiler suggested that we gear our primaries to those of neighboring states to enable candidates to be in the

area at the same time. Mr. Read noted that a spring election usually has a poor participation, but perhaps holding city elections at the same time as the primaries would increase the participation and decrease the costs.

Dr. Hulse stated that Nevada has been considered for many years as a "weather vane" as far as elections are concerned; that New Mexico is the only other state with the same record of electing winners.

Chairman Swallow stated and the committee concurred that this important subject would require much more consideration and that Professor John Wright, University of Nevada at Las Vegas, had expressed a desire to appear before the committee. Mr. Hilbrecht advised that he would contact Professor Wright and set up a time for him to be present. Chairman Swallow at that time invited Dr. Hulse and Mrs. Nicholson to attend any future meetings that would be held.

Chairman Swallow then presented A.B. 49 wherein the words "qualified electors or" were deleted at the meeting of January 29. Upon request of Mr. Russell McDonald, the bill was to be re-presented to the committee to consider rescinding their action. He stated that further discussion would be held after Mr. McDonald had presented his views to the committee.

Chairman Swallow adjourned the meeting.

AJR-18 Changes amendment to Nevada Constitution reducing minimum voting age.

The bill was discussed briefly but it was decided that there was no need for this bill because AJR-7 and AJR-8 covered the same thing.

AJR-18,,,Indefinitely postponed.