

MINUTES OF MEETING--COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS--55th NEVADA ASSEMBLY
FEBRUARY 11, 1969

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

Absent: None

Chairman Swallow convened the meeting and recognized Assemblyman Young who attended the meeting for the purpose of explaining some items on the agenda. These being A.J.R. 7, A.J.R. 13, and A.B. 159.

A.J. R. 7--Proposes amendment to Nevada constitution reducing minimum voting age. There was some discussion of the problems which came up in the 54th session. Harry Reid was assigned to contact Russell McDonald and to look into the problems of the 54th session. If possible, and if need be, Mr. McDonald would attend the meeting on Thursday.

A.J. R. 13--Memorializes Congress to initiate constitutional amendment to increase terms of Congressmen. It was pointed out that this resolution would be referred to the U. S. Congress. Chairman Swallow had asked that a bill for a four-year term be drafted.

Reid moved "Do Pass A.J.R. 13."

Homer seconded.

Motion unanimously carried.

A.B. 159---Prohibits anonymous political literature. Mr. Young pointed out that radio and television are adequately regulated and that newspapers are not. This bill would provide that all circulars, pamphlets and literature be signed. There was some question as to the reason for the bill.

Reid moved that Hillbrecht and Reid study the bill further to see whether they could come up with something better.

Frazzini seconded.

Motion unanimously carried.

A.B. 165--Changes membership requirements for boards of hospital trustees for public hospitals. Mr. Reid stated that Commissioners of larger counties do not have the time and therefore do not want to be on the Board of Trustees. This bill doesn't apply to Washoe County. It was decided that Reid would meet with Russell McDonald to discuss and see that reapportionment be written into A.B. 165. He will have report on Thursday so the committee may then continue the discussion.

A.B. 197--Changes composition of certain boards of trustees of school districts. Mr. Jacobson was called in to explain the bill to committee members. He explained this bill would provide that three members would not have to be from the county seat. Committee decided to hold up further action until Mr. Jacobson could talk with Mr. Emerson.

S.J.R. 1--Limits terms in office of Governor. It was stated that this bill is similar to the federal law for presidents. Hillbrecht pointed out that this was the second year out for A.J.R. 1 and that they should take some action on it.

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Homer moved recommendation for adoption of S.J.R. 1.
Hilbrecht seconded.

AB 200--Creates a presidential primary election, making an appropriation therefor.

Chairman Swallow read two letters, one from Janet Ulrich and one from John Smith of the Central Committee of White Pine County, both asking for a "Do not pass."

Recommendations in the letter from Janet Ulrich, Vice Chairman of the Republican party of White Pine County, were considered as follows:

(1) AB-4 complicates rather than simplifies our election system. The expense to the State exceeds the good; the monies donated to each party, which usually would be available to our national, state and local candidates, would be poured out in the June popularity contest. A three-ballot, committed delegation to a national convention is not worth the expense to the State and to individual party members.

In discussion the committee brought out that they may come up with the concept that the excessive expenses could be cut down in the local primaries.

(2) Section 8, subsection 1 and 2 will necessitate as many delegate slates as there are presidential candidates. It is difficult now to get that many interested and dedicated members of the party who will go to the convention. Subsection 3 rules that the Central Committee will decide who goes to the national convention as opposed to the present system of a whole state convention decision.

Chairman Swallow designated that this would be involuntary draft, only.

(3) Error in Section 9, asking if the word "party" had been erroneously substituted for the word "county."

The Committee stated that this was an error and had been changed in AB 200.

(4) Section 12 refunds the \$500 filing fee to the candidate receiving less than 10% of the vote.

The Committee decided to amend Section 12 to the effect that in no event will the filing fee be refunded.

(5) Section 29, subsection 5, implies an unspecified expense to the counties.

The Committee was of the opinion that this is a state problem rather than a county problem.

Chairman Swallow also presented a letter from Mr. John Smith of the Central Committee of White Pine County asking for a "do not pass" on AB 200. He listed his points of disagreement and these too, were discussed by the committee.

(1) Mr. Smith felt this an attempt on the part of the Clark County delegation to solve their internal problems.

(2) States which have had three elections in a presidential year have found that the public becomes saturated and indifferent.

(3) He ask if conventions would be abolished if delegates are selected as proposed.

The committee says "No" the primary purpose is to elect those officials who will represent the party.

(4) Mr. Smith felt that the financial burden on the state and counties outweighed the benefit to be gained.

Mr. Reid pointed out that they could report the bill out of committee and let Ways and Means resolve the cost.

(5) Section eight gives three methods by which delegates are to be selected.

AB 200 changes this.

(6) Section eight states that delegates are to be selected after the election but Section 16 requires that their names be made public before.

Only in a draft situation are delegates to be selected after the election

(7) Section nine states that no more than three delegates are to be from the same party.

Again the word "party" had been erroneously substituted for "county".

Reid moved Do Pass AB200 with the amendments, Line 7 Page 4, the \$500 filing fee in no event be refunded. Line 49 Page 3, be changed to total number of voters who voted in last election. Hilbrecht seconded.
Motion carried with one voting "no".

AB 200 was also to be amended to restore the draft provision contained in Section 11 of AB 4.

ACR 9--Directs legislative commission to participate in studies on uniform date for presidential primaries.
Schouweiler moved to indefinitely set aside ACR 9.
Reid seconded.
Motion carried with one voting "no."

Meeting adjourned.