

APRIL 11, 1969

55th SESSION

The meeting was called to order by Chairman R. Young at 12:30 P.M.

Present: R. Young, Howard, Bowler, Ashworth, Close, Jacobsen, Webb, F. Young, Glaser

Absent: None

The new Education Bill was discussed and Mr. Webb suggested these three major changes be made.

1. Average daily attendance be changed from the 6 highest months to three 3 highest months. This would eliminate losses due to epidemics or economic factors.
2. Retirement money distributed to the districts which will reflect the total support and put these dollars into figures on teachers' pay.
3. The new plan represents an increase in spending power for Education of 10% in the second year and in the first year 8%. The cost would be \$3,300,000 more for the biennium than the Governor Recommended.

Mr. Ashworth wondered how much more it is going to cost over the biennium if we had stayed with the Governor's recommendation.

Mr. Webb commented that it would be 10% or \$10,000,000.

The present average classroom teacher's salary now is \$8,321. This bill would provide for an increase of 24% State Aid.

Mr. Earl Oliver stated that the term General Fund Balance is a nebulous thing. He stated that if we had good accounting control it may be substantially more than we are currently anticipating.

Mr. Glaser stated that Mr. Howard Barrett's balance is \$4,000,000 lower than the Fiscal Analyst.

Mr. Ashworth commented that Clark County is better off individual teacher wise. Clark County has the finest schools and equipment than any other County. If we give them a 10% increase I believe we're just fattening them up. I question whether this 10% would go to the teachers.

Mr. Frank Young read a few statistics on how Nevada stands compared to the other states. At \$8,321 Nevada is ninth highest in the nation. California, second in the nation, will increase their school support 5% to 6%, New York, fifth in the nation will provide no increased support at the State level.

Mr. Frank Young stated that he felt we should not introduce this bill without a press release to go along with it, giving average salaries of each County and average salary increases.

Mr. Close suggested we make more than one press release or additional information pertaining to the averages in each county, so each county will know their average salary and their proposed salaries.

Mr. Bowler commented that we should not do anything until the Clark County School Board meets on Monday afternoon.

Mr. Ashworth suggested that we should introduce the bill Monday afternoon in the Assembly along with the press releases.

Mr. Howard thought we should check with the General Fund Balance before passing out the bill.

Mr. Glaser stated that in the event of a Special Session we could amend this back to 80%.

Mr. R. Young said we should get with the Senate Finance Committee and discuss the proposal with them.

Mr. Glaser discussed the Nevada Youth Training Center and stated he would recede from our position on the Training Center Classroom Building. He felt they probably could get along for two more years if they had to.

Mr. F. Young suggested an amendment to S.B. 190 to state the day after election instead of the 3rd Monday in January to be effective.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 P.M.

PRESS RELEASE

TODAY THE ASSEMBLY WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE HAS INTRODUCED A NEW SCHOOL MONEY BILL, AB 721. IT PROVIDES FOR A TOTAL STATE AID TO EDUCATION OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS OF APPROXIMATELY EIGHTY MILLION DOLLARS COMPARED TO SIXTY THREE MILLION IN THE PREVIOUS TWO YEARS. THIS IS AN INCREASE OF 24 PERCENT IN STATE AID. IN ADDITION TO THE EIGHTY MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE STATE THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS WILL RECEIVE APPROXIMATELY THIRTY MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE LOCAL SCHOOL SUPPORT TAX AND FIFTY TWO MILLION DOLLARS FROM LOCAL PROPERTY TAXES. WHEN THESE ARE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, THIS NEW PLAN REPRESENTS AN INCREASE IN SPENDING POWER FOR EDUCATION OF TEN PERCENT FOR THE SECOND YEAR OF THE NEXT BIENNIUM AND EIGHT PERCENT FOR THE FIRST YEAR.

THE COMMITTEE, AFTER HEARING TESTIMONY DECIDED TO APPROPRIATE MONEY BEYOND THE GOVERNOR'S SIZABLE BUDGET INCREASE OF \$9,800,000. THE COMMITTEE FEELS THAT THIS PACKAGE COSTING FOUR MILLION DOLLARS MORE THAN THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION CAN BE SQUEEZED OUT OF THE BUDGET WITHOUT ADDITIONAL GENERAL TAXES. THE ASSEMBLY WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE MUST YET CONVINCE THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY AND THE SENATE TO GO ALONG WITH THIS SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE.

THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE NOTED THAT THE AVERAGE CLASSROOM TEACHER'S SALARY IN NEVADA IS \$8,321, NINTH HIGHEST IN THE NATION. IF THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS DECIDE TO MAINTAIN THE SAME RELATIONSHIP OF TEACHERS' SALARIES TO TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES, THEN THIS INCREASE SHOULD ALLOW THE DISTRICTS TO INCREASE THE AVERAGE TEACHERS' SALARY FROM \$8,321 NOW TO \$9,000 THE FIRST YEAR AND \$9,150 THE SECOND YEAR. THIS INCREASE IS CALCULATED TO MAINTAIN OR IMPROVE

NEVADA'S RELATIVE POSITION OF NINTH AMONG THE STATES IN AVERAGE SALARIES. THE COMMITTEE NOTED FROM EVIDENCE PRESENTED THAT VERY FEW OF THE CALIFORNIA SCHOOL DISTRICTS - SECOND HIGHEST IN THE NATION - HAVE A MAXIMUM SALARY THAT IS TWICE THE MINIMUM SALARY. THE SCHEDULE IN SOME OF THE LARGER SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN NEVADA DOES PROVIDE FOR THIS TWO-TO-ONE RATIO. THE COMMITTEE NOTES THAT THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS SET TEACHERS' SALARIES AND IF THEY GIVE THOSE AT THE TOP OF THE RANGE A SOMEWHAT LOWER PERCENTAGE INCREASE THAN THE AVERAGE, THEY WILL BE ABLE TO QUITE SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE THE TEACHERS' STARTING SALARIES. THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE INASMUCH AS THERE ARE SO MANY MORE TEACHERS NEAR THE TOP OF THE RANGE THAN THERE ARE AT OR NEAR THE BOTTOM.

IN ITS DELIBERATIONS THE COMMITTEE INVESTIGATED WHAT OTHER STATES WILL PROBABLY DO THIS YEAR IN THE WAY OF INCREASING SUPPORT FOR EDUCATION. CALIFORNIA, NUMBER TWO IN THE NATION, WILL INCREASE THEIR SUPPORT FOR EDUCATION ABOUT FIVE OR SIX PERCENT. NEW YORK, NUMBER FIVE, WILL PROVIDE NO INCREASED SUPPORT AT THE STATE LEVEL. NEW JERSEY, NUMBER EIGHT, AND CONNECTICUT, NUMBER SEVEN, WILL PROVIDE NO INCREASED STATE SUPPORT. MICHIGAN, NUMBER THREE, WILL PROBABLY INCREASE SOMETHING BETWEEN TWO AND SIX PERCENT. ILLINOIS, NUMBER FOUR, IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE THEIR STATE SUPPORT VERY SIGNIFICANTLY AND TO FUND IT BY A STATE INCOME TAX.

THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS HAVE RECEIVED MANY LETTERS FROM EDUCATORS, SOME OF WHOM HAVE ASKED FOR A \$10,500 STARTING SALARY, OTHERS FOR \$8,000 STARTING SALARY. THESE REPRESENT INCREASES OF SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT AND THIRTY-THREE PERCENT RESPECTIVELY, OR WOULD REPRESENT INCREASES IN THE AVERAGE TEACHERS' SALARY FROM THE PRESENT \$8,321 TO \$14,500 OR \$11,100 RESPECTIVELY. AN \$11,100 AVERAGE SALARY WOULD HAVE MADE NEVADA NUMBER ONE IN THE NATION. THESE RAISES COULD HAVE

REQUIRED THE LEVYING OF THREE PERCENT INCREASED SALES TAX OR ONE PERCENT INCREASED SALES TAX. IN ADDITION TO THE SIXTY THREE MILLION DOLLARS PRESENTLY BEING EXPENDED, IT WOULD HAVE COST EIGHTY NINE MILLION DOLLARS MORE TO INCREASE THEIR STARTING SALARY TO \$10,500 AND THIRTY NINE MILLION MORE TO INCREASE THE STARTING SALARY TO \$8,000.

THE STATE OBLIGATION FOR TEACHERS' RETIREMENT IS \$3,700,000 PER YEAR. THIS SUM HAS NOT BEEN PREVIOUSLY INCLUDED AS A PART OF THE BASIC SUPPORT FORMULA. THE \$3,700,000 HAS BEEN INCLUDED IN THE PROPOSED FORMULA IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE COST OF ADMINISTERING TEACHERS' RETIREMENT. IT DOES RESULT IN AN APPARENT INCREASE IN THE BASIC SUPPORT FORMULA OF \$30 PER STUDENT, BUT IN FACT THIS SUM DOES NOT REPRESENT INCREASED AID TO EDUCATION.

THE BILL PROTECTS SCHOOL DISTRICTS AGAINST THE ADVERSE EFFECT OF UNEXPECTED DECREASE IN ATTENDANCE CAUSED BY EPIDEMICS OR ECONOMIC FACTORS. THIS IS ACCOMPLISHED BY DISTRIBUTING BASIC SUPPORT MONEY BASED ON THE THREE HIGHEST MONTHS OF AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR. THE PRACTICE IN THE PAST HAS BEEN TO DISTRIBUTE THIS MONEY ON THE HIGHEST SIX MONTHS OF AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE.

IN CLARK COUNTY THERE ARE PRESENTLY 2,800 TEACHERS (EXCLUDING ADMINISTRATORS) WITH AN AVERAGE SALARY OF \$8,800. ASSUMING THAT THE CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT MAINTAINS THE SAME PROPORTION OF ITS TOTAL BUDGET IN TEACHERS' SALARIES, THIS BILL WOULD RESULT IN AN AVERAGE SALARY INCREASE TO \$9,905 THE FIRST YEAR AND \$9,681 THE SECOND YEAR.

IN CHURCHILL COUNTY THERE ARE PRESENTLY 121 TEACHERS (EXCLUDING ADMINISTRATORS) WITH AN AVERAGE SALARY OF \$7,987. ASSUMING THAT THE CHURCHILL COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT MAINTAINS THE SAME PROPORTION OF ITS TOTAL BUDGET IN TEACHERS' SALARIES, THIS BILL WOULD RESULT IN AN AVERAGE SALARY INCREASE TO \$8,626 THE FIRST YEAR AND \$8,786 THE SECOND YEAR.

IN DOUGLAS COUNTY THERE ARE PRESENTLY 77 TEACHERS (EXCLUDING ADMINISTRATORS) WITH AN AVERAGE SALARY OF \$7,696. ASSUMING THAT THE DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT MAINTAINS THE SAME PROPORTION OF ITS TOTAL BUDGET IN TEACHERS' SALARIES, THIS BILL WOULD RESULT IN AN AVERAGE SALARY INCREASE TO \$8,312 THE FIRST YEAR AND \$8,466 THE SECOND YEAR.

IN ELKO COUNTY THERE ARE PRESENTLY 192 TEACHERS (EXCLUDING ADMINISTRATORS) WITH AN AVERAGE SALARY OF \$7,748. ASSUMING THAT THE ELKO COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT MAINTAINS THE SAME PROPORTION OF ITS TOTAL BUDGET IN TEACHERS' SALARIES, THIS BILL WOULD RESULT IN AN AVERAGE SALARY INCREASE TO \$8,368 THE FIRST YEAR AND \$8,523 THE SECOND YEAR.

IN ESMERALDA COUNTY THERE ARE PRESENTLY 4 TEACHERS (EXCLUDING ADMINISTRATORS) WITH AN AVERAGE SALARY OF \$7,038. ASSUMING THAT THE ESMERALDA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT MAINTAINS THE SAME PROPORTION OF ITS TOTAL BUDGET IN TEACHERS' SALARIES, THIS BILL WOULD RESULT IN AN AVERAGE SALARY INCREASE TO \$7,655 THE FIRST YEAR AND \$7,797 THE SECOND YEAR.

IN PERSHING COUNTY THERE ARE PRESENTLY 37 TEACHERS (EXCLUDING ADMINISTRATORS) WITH AN AVERAGE SALARY OF \$7,767. ASSUMING THAT THE PERSHING COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT MAINTAINS THE SAME PROPORTION OF ITS TOTAL BUDGET IN TEACHERS' SALARIES, THIS BILL WOULD RESULT IN AN AVERAGE SALARY INCREASE TO \$8,388 THE FIRST YEAR AND \$8,544 THE SECOND YEAR.

IN STOREY COUNTY THERE ARE PRESENTLY 7 TEACHERS (EXCLUDING ADMINISTRATORS) WITH AN AVERAGE SALARY OF \$6,936. ASSUMING THAT THE STOREY COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT MAINTAINS THE SAME PROPORTION OF ITS TOTAL BUDGET IN TEACHERS' SALARIES, THIS BILL WOULD RESULT IN AN AVERAGE SALARY INCREASE TO \$7,491 THE FIRST YEAR AND \$7,630 THE SECOND YEAR.

IN WASHOE COUNTY THERE ARE PRESENTLY 1,098 TEACHERS (EXCLUDING ADMINISTRATORS) WITH AN AVERAGE SALARY OF \$8,384. ASSUMING THAT THE WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT MAINTAINS THE SAME PROPORTION OF ITS TOTAL BUDGET IN TEACHERS' SALARIES, THIS BILL WOULD RESULT IN AN AVERAGE SALARY INCREASE TO \$9,055 THE FIRST YEAR AND \$9,222 THE SECOND YEAR.

IN WHITE PINE COUNTY THERE ARE PRESENTLY 126 TEACHERS (EXCLUDING ADMINISTRATORS) WITH AN AVERAGE SALARY OF \$7,880. ASSUMING THAT THE WHITE PINE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT MAINTAINS THE SAME PROPORTION OF ITS TOTAL BUDGET IN TEACHERS' SALARIES, THIS BILL WOULD RESULT IN AN AVERAGE SALARY INCREASE TO \$8,510 THE FIRST YEAR AND \$8,668 THE SECOND YEAR.



Nevada Legislature

ASSEMBLY

RETIREMENT REVISIONS REQUIRED.

NRS 286.380

Subsections:

4. Repeal - State to pay employer's contribution.
5. Repeal - State dept. of Education to collect employee's contribution and pay to retirement board.
6. Repeal - School districts to transmit employee's contribution to State department.