

M I N U T E S

IOWA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

June 9, 1976

The fourteenth meeting of the 1975-1976 Iowa Legislative Council was called to order at 10:40 a.m., Wednesday, June 9, 1976 in the Speaker's Conference Room of the State House, Des Moines. Members attending the meeting were:

Speaker of the House Dale M. Cochran, Chairperson
President Pro Tem Minnette Doderer, Vice Chairperson
Lieutenant Governor Arthur A. Neu
Senator James E. Briles
Senator Lucas J. DeKoster
Senator Eugene M. Hill
Senator George R. Kinley
Senator William D. Palmer
Senator Bass Van Gilst
Representative Elmer H. Den Herder
Representative Keith Dunton
Representative Jerome Fitzgerald
Representative William J. Hargrave
Representative Floyd D. Millen
Representative James Middleswart
Representative Delwyn Stromer

Also present during the afternoon session were Senator Willard R. Hansen, Representative Donald V. Doyle, and Representative Andrew Varley.

Also in attendance were a number of legislative staff personnel and other interested persons.

Following roll call, Chairperson Cochran asked for corrections and additions to the minutes of the meetings of April 28, 1976 and May 20, 1976. There being none, Representative Dunton moved that the minutes be approved as written. The motion was seconded by Senator Van Gilst and adopted.

Chairperson Cochran asked if there were any comments from the members of the Legislative Council prior to recessing for meetings of the Legislative Service Committee, the Studies Committee, and the Legislative Fiscal Committee. Representative Middleswart expressed concern about the number of study committees which were created during the 1975 interim. He stated that too many committees were created last year and that the Legislative Council should keep the number of study committees this interim to a minimum. Lieutenant Governor Neu stated that he agrees with Representative Middleswart's comments that the Legislative Council should be careful to limit the number of study committees. He also stated that the Legislative Council should authorize subcommittees

of standing committees to conduct the interim studies to provide greater continuity with regard to carrying out the recommendations of the studies during the legislative session. Representative Stromer commented that long-term studies such as the malpractice insurance study, the penal and correctional institutions study, and the no-fault insurance study should not be continued because these subjects have been studied much too long with very little success. Senator Hill stated that he is not satisfied that the Legislative Council should attempt to limit the number of studies before the list of proposed studies are reviewed by the Studies Committee. He added that it is more important to be certain that important study proposals are considered rather than being preoccupied with arbitrarily setting a limitation on the number of studies. He suggested that the following subjects should be given high priority by the Legislative Council: transportation plans and finance, performance auditing, review of Administrative Procedure Act, review of the public employment relations procedures, the throw-back tax, and joint rules of the House of Representatives and Senate. Representative Hargrave stated that the Studies Committee should not be considered a whipping boy for criticism. He noted that the Legislative Council must approve all studies that are recommended by the Studies Committee and that any failures resulting from the number and scope of interim studies should not be considered the sole responsibility of the Studies Committee. Senator Doderer also suggested that the Legislative Council establish a policy which would eliminate legislators who are not seeking reelection or who were defeated in the primary election from being appointed to study committees.

There being no further comments, Chairperson Cochran recessed the Council meeting at 10:55 a.m.

Chairperson Cochran recalled the Council meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

Chairperson Cochran recognized Mr. David Wray, Chief Clerk and Mr. Steve Cross, Secretary of the Senate, to report on the status of the study concerning the audio systems for the House and Senate chambers. Mr. Wray and Mr. Cross distributed copies of an abstract from the preliminary report of the State of Iowa Legislative Chamber Audio System prepared by Spectra Associates, Inc. Mr. Wray presented a general outline of the technical feedback and tone quality problems existing in the present audio system in the House and Senate chambers. A copy of the abstract is attached to and by this reference made a part of these minutes. Mr. Wray stated that the recommendations of Spectra Associates would add a compression amplifier, peak limiter, voice leveling, and audio filter components to the House audio system. Mr. Cross stated that the proposal for the Senate audio system is somewhat different from the House system and would include an automated switching system which is not now compatible with the current electronic voting and audio system used in the House. He added that the cost of upgrading each system would be approximately the same, \$24,000 per chamber.

In reply to a question by Senator Van Gilst, Mr. Cross stated that the automatic switching system is presently not compatible with the current electronic voting, audio system in the House chamber. In reply to a question by Representative Hargrave, Mr. Wayne Fackler, Spectra Associates, explained that the entire wiring system, the desk console, and various components of the electronic voting system in the House would have to be changed in order to facilitate automated switching systems as is recommended for the Senate chamber. He stated that the speak-light notification would have to be added at each desk in the House if an automatic switching system is to be included. Representative Millen commented that much of the confusion and a considerable part of the audio system problem in the House is caused by too many staff members and newsmen roaming around the chamber during the session. Representative Middleswart suggested that legislators should be given a training program in the use of the audio system during the orientation program for legislators at the beginning of each biennium. In reply to a question by Chairperson Cochran, Mr. Wray stated that there are no alternatives presented in the abstract report concerning the House audio system because including an automated switching system would require fundamental changes in the wiring of the electronic voting system already established in the House. He stated that he was not aware that the Council wished to consider such alternatives when the audio system study was initiated. He added that including an alternative proposal similar to the Senate would add approximately 30 percent to the cost of the proposed project.

Senator Kinley moved that the preliminary report on the State of Iowa Legislative Chamber Audio System be adopted and that the Chief Clerk of the House and the Secretary of the Senate be authorized to solicit bids for the installation of the recommended audio systems for the House chamber and the Senate chamber. After further discussion, Senator Van Gilst moved a substitute motion that the report be adopted and the Chief Clerk and the Secretary of the Senate be authorized to solicit bids for the proposed audio systems in the House chamber and the Senate chamber, including alternatives to the House audio system which would be identical to the Senate audio system. The motion was seconded by Representative Dunton. Lieutenant Governor Neu suggested that the Council authorize separate contracts for the Senate and the House if the Van Gilst motion is adopted. He stated that there is a critical time factor which might delay completion of the project before the convening of the 1977 session if the House voting and audio system must be substantially changed. Representative Varley stated that he supports Senator Kinley's motion because a complete revision of the House voting and audio system is not necessary. He added that a speak-light notification system and automated switching system is not critical to the legislative processes in the House and therefore the cost is not justified.

After further discussion, Senator Van Gilst withdrew his motion with the consent of Representative Dunton. Representative

Dunton commented, however, that he would like to know the estimated cost of changing the House voting and audio system to include the alternatives available to the Senate.

There being no further questions, Senator Kinley's motion was adopted.

Chairperson Cochran next recognized Mr. Pat Charles, Coopers & Lybrand and Dr. Howard Dockery, University of Iowa, to answer questions of the Council members regarding the proposed interactive budgeting and monitoring computer system for the Iowa General Assembly. In reply to a question by Representative Hargrave, Mr. Charles stated that the proposed program for the computer system will accommodate zero-based budgeting very well. In reply to a question by Senator Doderer, Mr. Charles stated that the current annual cost of the computer system instituted by the Washington legislature is approximately \$100,000; however, when this program is integrated into the computer system of the State of Washington the cost will be approximately \$45,000 per year. He added that according to figures compiled by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau, the cost of the Iowa computer system using existing equipment will be approximately \$10,000 after the initial cost of establishing the program is completed. Representative Stromer commented that he does not oppose the idea of obtaining a computer system for use by the General Assembly, but he does oppose bypassing the appropriation process of the General Assembly in approving and expending approximately \$357,000 to implement this system. He stated that the computer proposal was presented to the General Assembly during the final days of the last session, but it was not acted upon and, therefore, the Legislative Council should not vote to establish this system without approval of the General Assembly. Representative Varley also stated that he has several reservations about spending this amount of money to purchase a computer program before the needs of the General Assembly are fully understood. He further stated that he is reluctant to approve purchase of this program which is actually designed for the State of Washington. He concluded that the Legislative Council should proceed with developing a computer system with the use of Iowa employees rather than trying to adapt a program designed for another state. In reply to a question by Representative Millen, Mr. Charles stated that the State of Washington is the only state currently using the computer system under consideration. He added that several states including Oregon and Colorado are proceeding toward the establishment of legislative computer facilities. Representative Millen commented that after hearing the discussion on the proposed system, he is not certain that there is any significant advantage to justify establishing a system in Iowa.

Chairperson Cochran recognized Ms. Marilyn Farr, Legislative Fiscal Bureau, to comment on the computer proposal. Ms. Farr stated that the consultant firm, Coopers & Lybrand, will establish a legislative computer program for Iowa specifically designed for this state. She stated that the system will be particularly useful in calculating fiscal notes because much of the data needed

to determine fiscal notes is already available from information and statistics compiled by state agencies; however, it has proven very difficult and time consuming to obtain this information through the use of the State Comptroller's computer system. She added that all state agencies except the board of regents use the same accounting system and this information can be readily included in the proposed system. In conclusion, she added that the proposed legislative computer system will require two additional persons to maintain and operate it. In reply to a question by Senator Hill, Ms. Farr stated that information and data selected by the General Assembly will be included in the legislative system on a continuing basis and will be there available for use when needed during the legislative sessions. Senator Hill commented that the legislative computer system is needed to improve the legislative process, particularly, the appropriations process and the system will be well worth the expenditure to establish it. In reply to Representative Hargrave, Mr. Charles stated that Coopers & Lybrand will collect the initial data base for the proposed system and that this would be less expensive and time consuming than asking personnel from the University of Iowa to develop the program. He added that the expertise could be developed at the University of Iowa, but it would take a considerable amount of time and it would be costly to develop an entirely new system and correct all the problem areas as they appear. Ms. Farr commented that the proposed program recommended by Coopers & Lybrand must be adapted for use in Iowa, but much of the basic system is already established and proven. Representative Varley stated that he disagrees with Senator Hill's comments concerning the need for this legislative program. He added that the legislative program established for Iowa will be constantly changed and upgraded and that the difficult decisions which this program is suppose to provide the General Assembly will take value judgments which the computer cannot give. He also questioned the value of a legislative program if the State Comptroller's computer system is changed within a few years. He added that he is not opposed to methods to refine the legislative process, but the Legislative Council must take a long-range view and adopt methods and procedures which will be workable in future years.

Commenting on the basic proposal of Coopers & Lybrand, Mr. Charles stated that the recommended program will be specifically designed for Iowa, that the program recommended will be an assist to the decision making process but cannot be viewed as a decision maker, and that the program is designed so that it can be translated or adapted from one computer system to another as needed.

After further discussion, Senator Hill moved that the consultant firm, Coopers & Lybrand, be employed by the Legislative Council to institute an interactive budgeting and monitoring system for the Iowa General Assembly. The motion was seconded by Representative Dunton.

In reply to a question by Senator Doderer, Ms. Farr stated that requests for information to determine fiscal notes particularly relating to property tax data and inheritance tax data were delayed during the last legislative session because some information that is available has not been entered into the State Comptroller's computer system and therefore a delay of several weeks sometimes occurred. She also stated that it is a time consuming process to obtain the desired information from the State Comptroller's system because of the priorities and many other uses which the computer system has. Senator Palmer stated that he strongly supports the development of a legislative system because of the obvious need in the appropriation process. He stated that there is a considerable amount of information concerning federal grants and assistance funds and trends in federal funding which could be developed on a legislative system and be of considerable value to the General Assembly.

Representative Stromer restated his opposition to the Legislative Council bypassing the General Assembly in approving the establishment of this computer program system. He referred to the Legislative Council minutes of May 20, 1976 where the Legislative Council agreed to present a bill requesting an appropriation for the legislative computer system to the General Assembly for its consideration. Representative Hargrave stated that the motion adopted by the Legislative Council at its May 20 meeting has been followed. He stated that the Committee on Appropriations of the House did consider the appropriation request. He added that the bill was not enacted, but it was not defeated either.

There being no further questions, Senator Hill's motion was adopted by roll call vote of eleven aye, five no and two present. Those voting aye were Speaker Cochran, Representative Doyle, Representative Dunton, Representative Fitzgerald, Representative Hargrave, Representative Middleswart, Senator Doderer, Senator Hill, Senator Kinley, Senator Palmer, and Senator Van Gilst. Those voting nay were Representative Millen, Representative Stromer, Representative Varley, Senator Briles, and Senator Hansen. Those voting present were Representative Den Herder and Senator DeKoster.

Chairperson Cochran next recognized Senator Palmer to present the Report of the Legislative Fiscal Committee. A copy of the Report is attached to and by this reference made a part of these minutes.

There being no comments, Senator Palmer moved that the Report of the Legislative Fiscal Committee be accepted by the Legislative Council. The motion was seconded by Representative Dunton and adopted.

Chairperson Cochran recognized Senator Doderer to present the Report of the Legislative Service Committee. A copy of the Report is attached to and by this reference made a part of these minutes. Senator Doderer moved that the Legislative Council adopt the Committee's recommendation that Mr. Jay Honeycutt and Mr.

Michael Goedert be employed by the Legislative Service Bureau in Attorney I positions. The motion was seconded by Representative Fitzgerald and adopted.

Senator Doderer moved that the Legislative Council approve the recommendation of the Committee that the Legislative Service Bureau Director, Mr. Serge Garrison, be authorized to enter into a lease-purchase with Xerox Corporation for the ownership of a Xerox 7000 machine at an annual price approximately equal to the annual rental cost, which will pay for the machine over a five-year period. The motion was seconded by Representative Middleswart and adopted. Senator Doderer moved that the Legislative Council approve the allocation of the budgets of the Legislative Fiscal Bureau, the Legislative Service Bureau, and the Office of Citizens' Aide to the State Comptroller for the fiscal year 1976-1977. Senator Doderer noted that the allocations can be reviewed at later dates and changes where needed. The motion was seconded by Representative Middleswart and adopted.

Senator Doderer moved that the Legislative Council accept the Report of the Legislative Service Committee. The motion was seconded by Representative Middleswart and adopted.

Chairperson Cochran recognized Senator Kinley to present the Report of the Studies Committees. A copy of the Report of the Studies Committee is attached to and by this reference made a part of these minutes. There being no questions, Senator Kinley moved that the Legislative Council accept the Report of the Studies Committee. The motion was seconded by Representative Fitzgerald and adopted.

Chairperson Cochran next recognized Mr. Garrison to present a summary of the travel by the Legislative Service Bureau employees for the fiscal year 1975-1976 and proposed travel for the Legislative Service Bureau employees for the fiscal year 1976-1977. A copy of the two travel reports are attached to and by this reference made a part of these minutes.

Mr. Rankin also presented an outline of the schedule of meetings, travel seminars and conferences for the Legislative Fiscal Bureau employees for the fiscal year 1975-1976 and the proposed travel schedule for the fiscal year 1976-1977. A copy of Mr. Rankin's reports are attached to and by this reference made a part of these minutes.

Senator Doderer commented that the Legislative Service Committee will include recommendations relating to legislative staff travel with its report to the Legislative Council at its July meeting.

There being no further comments, Senator Doderer moved that the Legislative Council receive the reports of the Legislative Fiscal Bureau and the Legislative Service Bureau relating to employees' travel. The motion was seconded by Senator Hill and adopted.

Senator Doderer asked if Senator Hill's motion authorizing the employment of Coopers & Lybrand to establish interactive budgeting and monitoring systems implied consent to the Subcommittee's recommendation as to oversight and management committees for the system. It was a consensus of the Council that these recommendations are not included in the motion.

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

SERGE H. GARRISON
Director

THANE R. JOHNSON
Senior Research Analyst