

M I N U T E S
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

June 23, 1981

The fourth meeting of the 1981-1983 Legislative Council was called to order at 1:45 p.m., Tuesday, June 23, 1981 in Committee Room 22 of the State House, Des Moines. Council members attending were:

Speaker Delwyn Stromer, Vice Chairperson
Lieutenant Governor Terry Branstad
Senator Gary L. Baugher
Senator James E. Briles
Senator C. Joseph Coleman
Senator C. W. Hutchins
Senator John S. Murray
Senator Dick Ramsey
Senator Ray Taylor
Representative Robert T. Anderson
Representative Donald D. Avenson
Representative John H. Clark
Representative John H. Connors
Representative Gregory D. Cusack
Representative Ingwer L. Hansen
Representative Lester D. Menke
Representative Lawrence Pope
Representative Richard W. Welden

Other persons present for the meeting were:

Mr. Stanley McCausland, Director of General Services
Mr. Serge Garrison, Legislative Service Bureau
Mr. Bill Angrick, Citizens' Aide
Mr. Gerry Rankin, Legislative Fiscal Bureau
Ms. Billie Walling, House of Representatives Finance Office
Ms. Henrietta Macaulay, Capitol Tour Guide
Ms. Diane Bolender, Legislative Service Bureau

Also present were a number of other Iowa legislative staff persons, news media representatives, and other interested individuals.

Senator Coleman moved that the minutes of the May 20, 1981 meeting be approved as submitted to Council members, and the motion was adopted.

Representative Hansen moved that the Legislative Council receive the educational leave report. Representative Menke seconded the motion, and it carried.

Vice Chairperson Stromer recognized Mr. McCausland for brief comments. Mr. McCausland stated that he was addressing the Council because of recent news reports which stated that a piece of sandstone fell from the Corinthian top of one of the pilasters on

the Capitol. He explained that there was no structural damage to the building but he is concerned about the condition of the decorative stonework. Mr. McCausland explained that he had requested a \$10,000 appropriation to employ an architect to review the stonework throughout the Capitol, but this capital appropriation request, along with all other capital requests, was not recommended by the Governor. Mr. McCausland further explained that he has \$10,000 remaining from an appropriation for the double electrical loop surrounding the Capitol and will use this money if there are no objections. Senator Coleman asked whether Mr. McCausland had considered asking for the money from the Executive Council. Mr. McCausland responded that he believes that he should use money in the Department of General Services' capital account first. Mr. McCausland further explained that he has reported to the Executive Council that he will be expending funds for an architect's analysis of the stonework.

Vice Chairperson Stromer thanked Mr. McCausland for his comments and reviewed the Report of the Service Committee, a copy of which is attached and by this reference made a part of these minutes. He called for comments from Mr. Garrison relating to the proposed salaries of employees of the Legislative Service Bureau.

Mr. Garrison explained that he is recommending an eight percent salary increase for all employees of the Legislative Service Bureau, but it appears that executive branch employees under the Merit Employment Department Classification System who are on step 1 of a grade are eligible to receive a 13 percent increase in salary. He added that this occurs because of a reduction from 7 to 6 steps for each grade. Mr. Garrison explained that the law appears to restrict the average salary increase for an agency to eight percent. He also expressed the belief that providing a 13 percent increase to those employees who are on step 1 will unjustly enrich those employees to the detriment of the other employees. He suggested that if a new employee were to be hired, that employee would be placed on either a step 0 or X rather than step 1 so that inexperienced employees will not receive more salary than experienced employees. Representative Connors expressed the belief that legislative employees should be treated in the same manner as those employees currently covered by the Merit System.

Vice Chairperson Stromer asked Mr. Angrick to explain the results of a similar situation occurring two years ago. Mr. Angrick explained that he established an X step below step 1 for an attorney who is employed in his office. He also commented that legislative agencies follow the Merit System pay schedule, but are not required to do so and when inequities are caused, the agencies have the flexibility to address the inequity.

Vice Chairperson Stromer asked for comments from either Senator Murray or Representative Welden, the Chairpersons of the Committees on Appropriations. Both Senator Murray and Representative Welden agreed that they had understood that eight percent salary increases would be provided for state employees.

Vice Chairperson Stromer asked for objections to establishing a step below step 1 for certain Legislative Service Bureau employees. Representative Connors expressed an objection.

Vice Chairperson Stromer expressed hope that the Legislative Council would tentatively approve the recommendations of the Service Committee allowing Mr. Garrison to operate the Legislative Service Bureau as he sees fit as long as the actions are consistent with the law.

Vice Chairperson Stromer asked that the portion of the Service Committee Report relating to the budget allocation, travel, and proposed salaries of the Office of Citizens' Aide include approval for employment of a typist on a part-time basis, as needed, at a salary rate of \$4.50 per hour. The Council agreed.

Vice Chairperson Stromer explained that legislation enacted during the last session placed the tour guides under the Legislative Council. He stated that information presented at the meeting of the Service Committee indicates that salaries and benefits for the tour guides do not coincide with the salaries and benefits paid to employees of the General Assembly. Ms. Macaulay stated that she would like to see the present benefits continued.

Vice Chairperson Stromer called for comments from Ms. Walling about the differences between the salaries and benefits of the tour guides and the employees of the House of Representatives. Ms. Walling stated that the employees of the General Assembly are paid under the non-contractual salary schedule and the tour guides are paid under the blue collar salary schedule, which is approximately one and one-half percent higher. She stated that rules for state employees provide that for an employee working from 20 to 28 hours per week, the state will pay one-half the single person premium cost for health insurance and for those employees working 30 or more hours per week, the state will pay the entire single person premium cost for health insurance. She commented that at the present time, Ms. Macaulay who works less than 30 hours per week has a single person health insurance policy paid in full by the state and Ms. Judkins, who works full-time as a tour guide, but is a permanent part-time employee, only has one-half her health insurance paid.

Vice Chairperson Stromer indicated that the Legislative Council can either establish a separate legislative policy for the tour guides or it can follow the directive in the pay resolution for employees of the House of Representatives and Senate.

Representative Cusack asked that the Service Committee develop recommendations for the Legislative Council for the tour guides. Vice Chairperson Stromer agreed that a meeting of the Service Committee would be set up during the special session of the General Assembly.

Representative Cusack moved that the recommendations of the Service Committee be adopted, with the exception of Nos. 5, 6, and 7. Representative Connors seconded the motion, and it carried.

Vice Chairperson Stromer called upon Representative Pope for the report of the Studies Committee. A copy of the Report is attached and by this reference made a part of these minutes. Mr. Garrison suggested that the Committee chairpersons be polled during the special session and asked to indicate their preferences for interim studies.

Representative Welden reviewed the Report of the Legislative Fiscal Committee and moved its adoption. A copy of the Report is attached and by this reference made a part of these minutes. Representative Cusack seconded the motion, and it carried.

Representative Cusack inquired whether the State Government Committees met as authorized by the Legislative Council. Vice Chairperson Stromer responded in the negative and Representative Pope interjected that it was not felt that such a meeting would be productive in advance of the special session.

Vice Chairperson Stromer recognized Senator Richard Drake and Representative William Harbor, Chairpersons of the Temporary Transportation Joint Subcommittee, for a report of the Subcommittee's recommendations. Senator Drake reported that the Subcommittee is recommending the imposition of a three cent per gallon railroad diesel fuel tax effective October 1, 1981 and an eight cent per gallon railroad diesel fuel tax effective July 1, 1982, which would generate about \$8,000,000 per year. He explained that in addition, it is recommended that the one and one-fourth cent per mile equipment car tax on cars not owned by operating railroads, which would generate approximately \$1.9 million per year, be used by the Iowa Railway Finance Authority beginning in 1983. Senator Drake commented that these additional funds would provide about \$10,000,000 which will support the issuance of between \$78,000,000 to \$80,000,000 in revenue bonds which could be sold by the Iowa Railway Finance Authority for financing the purchase and rehabilitation of rail lines or loaning money to railroads to buy and rebuild tracks. He noted that the bill would provide a limit totalling \$200,000,000 in bonds outstanding at one time. Senator Drake commented that the state of Iowa would not be allowed to bid against operating railroad carriers for railroad lines unless it is in the best interest of the state as determined by the State Transportation Commission.

Council members asked a number of questions relating to the recommendations of the Subcommittee and about the money that would be generated, and how it could be expended. It was estimated that it will be at least 18 months before bonds can be sold. Senator Drake explained that the money from the taxes would be earmarked and placed in a special fund that could only be used to issue bonds.

In response to questions about a state purchase of railroad property, Senator Drake responded that under the bill it will not be possible for the State of Iowa to operate rolling stock even though the track might be owned by the State of Iowa. Senator Drake emphasized that with the funds available, it will not be possible for every community in this state to have adequate rail service.

Comments were made by Representative Harbor that other financial interests will be putting money into the railroad program. He added that for every \$4.00 generated through the bonding process, other interests must provide an additional \$1.00. He commented that shipping groups must enter into contractual obligations to make a viable railroad.

Senator Hutchins, who is a member of the Subcommittee, commented that the Department of Transportation Commission presented figures that passage of a bill which they support would provide a positive impact in Iowa of about \$324,000,000 per year.

Senator Hutchins asked about payment of expenses for members of the Subcommittee who attended a railroad tour. Both Vice Chairperson Stromer and Lieutenant Governor Branstad indicated that expenses for members will be authorized, but no per diem.

Senator Taylor moved that the Council adjourn. Representative Weldon seconded the motion, and it carried. The Council adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

SERGE GARRISON
Director

DIANE BOLENDER
Senior Research Analyst