



MINUTES

International Relations Committee of the Legislative Council

January 25, 2000

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Nancy Boettger,
Chairperson
Senator Dennis Black
Senator Bill Fink
Senator Eugene Fraise
Senator Steve King
Senator Darryl McLaren
Senator Neal Schuerer
Senator Elaine Szymoniak

Representative Willard Jenkins,
Vice Chairperson
Representative Minnette Doderer
Representative Jack Drake
Representative Chuck Gipp
Representative Jane Greimann
Representative Scott Raecker
Representative Paul Scherrman

MEETING IN BRIEF

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Organizational staffing provided
by:
Patty Funaro, Senior Legal
Counsel
(515) 281-3040

Minutes prepared by:
Patty Funaro, Senior Legal
Counsel
(515) 281-3040

- I. Procedural Business
 - II. Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson
 - III. Presentations
 - IV. Future Meetings
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I. Procedural Business.

Call to order. The meeting was called to order by Temporary Co-chairperson Willard Jenkins at 4:40 p.m. in Committee Room 22 of the State House and was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

II. Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

Temporary Co-Chairperson Jenkins welcomed the members of the Committee and following introductions by the members, Representative Doderer moved that Temporary Co-chairperson Boettger be elected Chairperson and Temporary Co-chairperson Jenkins be elected Vice Chairperson. The motion was approved unanimously. It was suggested that Chairperson Boettger and Vice Chairperson Jenkins write a letter to legislative leadership requesting that as the Chair and Vice Chair of the International Relations Committee they be notified when international visitors will be present.

III. Presentations.

A. Ms. Kathy Hill, Division Administrator, International Division, Department of Economic Development provided the Committee with an overview of the work of the Division including the importance of marketing Iowa's value-added products. She also provided the Committee with an informational packet and a contact list for the various services provided by the Division.

B. Mr. Harold Hommes, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, noted that since 1997, the marketing division of IDALS has been located within the Department of Economic Development. He noted that even though the international marketing division aspect is no longer physically part of IDALS, the department does coordinate efforts with various departments and interest groups in working with international visitors, including groups that visit to learn about the market system and pricing and those groups that make courtesy visits to meet the Secretary of Agriculture.

C. Ms. Sarah Lande, Executive Director, Iowa Sister States Program, presented information regarding the Program which originated in 1985. She noted that the Program has many purposes including to help immigrants feel welcome, to familiarize Iowans with other cultures, to help "grow" Iowa, to develop Iowa as the food capital of the world by determining, through interaction, what international customers want and need, to improve workforce development, and to improve the quality of life of Iowans by providing opportunities to experience other cultures.

D. Ms. Ann Schodde, Executive Director, Iowa Council for International Understanding, provided information about the Council which was established in 1938. She noted that the Council has changed its name and its mission over the years to respond to the environment. Ms. Schodde provided a copy of the annual report of the Council, a booklet of ethnic organizations and international services, and a packet of information relating to the development of a public/private partnership, the Center for New Iowans. Ms. Schodde noted that the two primary goals of the Council are to engage in programs to bring visitors to Iowa, mainly through federally funded grants, and to help Iowans to understand the world. Ms. Schodde noted that the Council has a strong connection to the federal government and utilizes opportunities to work with the federal government in welcoming visitors to Iowa. Mr. Robert

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Sturgeon, Barr-Nunn Transportation and a members of the ICIU Board of Directors, added his support in the development of a public/private partnership to provide a welcoming environment for those new to the state and to provide a mechanism to understand other cultures.

IV. Future meetings.

Chairperson Boettger noted that the Committee will be meeting on a weekly basis during the legislative session. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, February 1, 2000, and the agenda will include a report of international relations activities presented by Julie Livers, Director of the Legislative Information Office, and a discussion of the charge of the Committee, the role of the Committee, coordination of efforts with state agencies and interest groups, and protocol for hosting international visitors.

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