

M I N U T E S

IOWA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

July 12, 1990

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

The fourteenth meeting of the 1989-1990 Legislative Council was called to order by Senator Bill Hutchins, Chairperson, at 1:07 p.m., Thursday, July 12, 1990, in the Speaker's Committee Room, State House, Des Moines, Iowa. Members present in addition to Chairperson Hutchins were:

Speaker Donald Avenson, Vice Chairperson
Lieutenant Governor Jo Ann Zimmerman
Senator C. Joseph Coleman
Senator Donald V. Doyle
Senator Julia Gentleman
Senator Emil J. Husak
Senator John Jensen
Senator Jack Nystrom
Senator Dale Tieden
Senator Joe Welsh
Representative Bob Arnould
Representative Florence Buhr
Representative Kay Chapman
Representative John Connors
Representative Roger Halvorson
Representative William H. Harbor
Representative Tom Jochum
Representative Mary Lundby
Representative Harold Van Maanen

Also present were:

Ms. Diane Bolender, Director, Legislative Service Bureau; Mr. Dennis Prouty, Director, Legislative Fiscal Bureau; Mr. Sandy Scharf, Director, Computer Support Bureau; Mr. Mark W. Johnson, Legal Counsel, Legislative Service Bureau; other legislative staff members; representatives of the news media; and other interested persons.

ROLL CALL AND MINUTES

Chairperson Hutchins noted that the roll had been taken and indicated the presence of members of the Legislative Council as they arrived. Chairperson Hutchins recognized Senator Coleman who moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of June 14, 1990, which had been previously distributed. The motion was adopted.

1992 COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS ANNUAL MEETING

Chairperson Hutchins informed the Council that Representative Connors has been elected the National Chairman of the Council of State Governments for a term of office beginning December 1, 1991, and that traditionally the Chairman's region hosts the Council of State Governments Annual Meeting. He noted that Representative Connors has expressed the desire that the Annual Meeting in 1992 be held in Des Moines. Chairperson Hutchins then recognized Senator Husak who moved that appropriate action be taken for Iowa to host the 1992 Council of State Governments' Annual Meeting. The motion was adopted.

REPORT OF THE SERVICE COMMITTEE

Chairperson Hutchins recognized Representative Connors for the Report of the Service Committee. Representative Connors proceeded to briefly review the Report of the Service Committee.

Representative Lundby inquired as to the appropriateness of the recommendation that the Citizens' Aide/Ombudsman be required to reduce the budget of the Citizens' Aide Office by two percent, given that the Office responds directly to complaints of citizens concerning government and provides a valuable service to the citizens of Iowa. Chairperson Hutchins responded that he had discussed this action with Mr. Bill Angrick, the Citizens' Aide/Ombudsman, who had responded that in his opinion, such a reduction could be accomplished without any detrimental effect upon the duties and functions of that Office. He further stated that before such cuts were made, the Office would submit proposed cuts for review. Representative Lundby then moved to amend the Service Committee Report by requiring that the dollar reduction figure for the central staff agencies as a whole should be two percent of their combined budgets, but that actual reductions should be made so that the Citizens' Aide Office does not incur a reduction in budget, and that the central staff agency heads should report to leadership their budget reduction recommendations.

Senator Welsh inquired about Jim Peterson's vacancy in the Citizens' Aide Office and the impact of that vacancy on the

Office's budget. Mr. Angrick responded that the vacancy referred to occurred during the prior fiscal year and would not impact the budget for fiscal year 1990-91. He also stated, however, that he feels that the two percent budget reduction can be accomplished without reducing the services provided. Representative Lundby requested a record roll call vote. The motion failed 14-4 with Chairperson Hutchins, Senators Coleman, Doyle, Jensen, Husak, Nystrom, Tieden, and Welsh and Representatives Avenson, Arnould, Buhr, Chapman, Connors, and Jochum voting in the negative, with Representatives Halvorson, Harbor, Lundby, and Van Maanen voting in the affirmative, and with Senator Gentleman passing.

Representative Halvorson inquired as to whether the House and Senate staffs will also be reducing their budgets by two percent. Vice Chairperson Avenson responded that the Legislative Council does not have the authority to direct the House and Senate individually concerning the internal operations of each chamber, but that the Senate Rules and Administration Committee has already voted to reduce its budget by 2 percent the House will act appropriately to also reduce its budget.

Responding to comments made by Representatives Van Maanen and Harbor, Representative Connors asked unanimous consent to amend the Service Committee Report to require that the proposed central staff agency budget reductions be reported to leadership within one week and also that they be mailed to all Council members at that time. The Report was so amended.

There being no further comments, Representative Connors moved the adoption of the recommendations of the Service Committee. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. A copy of the Report of the Service Committee is attached to and by this reference made a part of these minutes.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Senator Doyle was recognized for the Report of the Administration Committee. After reviewing the Report, Senator Doyle moved its adoption by the Council.

Representative Van Maanen inquired as to whether a copy of the consultant's report concerning the emergency lighting proposal was available. Senator Doyle responded that it was not included in the Council packet, but that copies are available from the Legislative Service Bureau. He stated that the engineering consultant's costs are estimated to be approximately \$15,000 and that installation costs are estimated to be approximately \$183,700.

There being no further comments, the motion for approval of the Report was adopted. A copy of the Report of the Administration

Committee is attached to and by this reference made a part of these minutes.

REPORT OF THE STUDIES COMMITTEE DEFERRED TEMPORARILY

Chairperson Hutchins, noting that the Studies Committee Report was not yet available, deferred its presentation.

REPORT OF THE REDISTRICTING TECHNOLOGY SELECTION COMMITTEE

Chairperson Hutchins reviewed the Report of the Redistricting Technology Selection Committee.

Representative Halvorson inquired as to the cost of the redistricting contract with Election Data Services, Inc. Chairperson Hutchins responded that the cost is not to exceed \$600,000, and further noted that this cost is substantially less than other vendors. Chairperson Hutchins also commented that the computer system purchased would be useful to the Legislature in the future, given the quantity of demographic data collected and made accessible as the result of this process.

There being no further discussion of the Report, Chairperson Hutchins moved its adoption by the Council. The Report was adopted. A copy of the Report is attached to and by this reference made a part of these minutes.

BUDGET RECOMMENDATION DISCUSSIONS

Chairperson Hutchins recognized Representative Halvorson. Representative Halvorson, after noting the current budget concerns and concerns about the effectiveness of state government, moved that the Legislative Council direct the Fiscal Committee to examine and recommend a budget for each chamber for the 1990-91 fiscal year, which is not to exceed spending which occurred during the 1989-90 fiscal year.

Chairperson Hutchins, as a point of information, informed the Council that the Senate operates under a budget recommended by the Senate Rules and Administration Committee. Vice Chairperson Avenson also interjected that the Constitution provides that each chamber controls its own internal budget.

Representative Harbor suggested that a resolution by the Council commending the Senate and suggesting that each chamber establish and follow a budget might be appropriate. Vice Chairperson Avenson responded that such a request should more appropriately be referred to the House Committee on Rules and Administration and that that Committee could consider a House budget and implement the two percent reduction.

Representative Harbor again expressed his interest in having the Council express its sentiments concerning this issue in the form of a resolution directed to each chamber, recognizing that this would not be binding on either Chamber.

Chairperson Hutchins ruled that the original motion was out of order as it would impermissibly interfere with the internal operations of the individual chambers.

REPORT OF THE STUDIES COMMITTEE

Chairperson Hutchins recognized Vice Chairperson Avenson for the Report of the Studies Committee. Vice Chairperson Avenson reviewed the Report including the recommendation that any study committees approved to hold more than two meetings, which determine that an additional meeting or meetings should be held, must first make a request for, and receive, approval by the Council for the additional meetings.

There being no further comments, Vice Chairperson Avenson moved the adoption of the Report of the Studies Committee. The Report was adopted. A copy of the Report of the Studies Committee is attached to and by this reference made a part of these minutes.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

Chairperson Hutchins recognized Senator Welsh who informed the Council that the Legislative Fiscal Bureau is investigating a situation involving a Texas company granted an Iowa Housing Finance Authority loan for the purchase of nursing homes within the state. The company claims to be a nonprofit entity, but has been denied property tax exemptions by approximately 30 counties. Senator Welsh asked that questions concerning the situation be referred to the Fiscal Committee for study and possible action.

Chairperson Hutchins then recognized Representative Halvorson, who informed the Council that during discussions with the Department of Management, concern was expressed about the number of new state employee positions and the number of employees on leave of absence. He asked whether these individuals should be considered part-time employees and suggested that the Fiscal Committee should examine this issue. Chairperson Hutchins commented that he too would favor such an examination along with a review of state projects item vetoed but nonetheless funded by executive branch agencies.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Hutchins noted that the next meeting of the Legislative Council is scheduled for Thursday, August 16, 1990. There being no further business to come before the Legislative Council, Vice Chairperson Avenson moved that the Council adjourn and Chairperson Hutchins adjourned the meeting at 2:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

DIANE BOLENDER
Director

MARK W. JOHNSON
Legal Counsel