

M I N U T E S

SPACE COMMITTEE

July 26, 1983

The Space Committee was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by its Chairperson, Senator Lowell Junkins. Other members in attendance were Representative Betty Hoffman-Bright and Representative John Connors. In addition to legislative staff personnel, other persons attending included:

Mr. Michael Fitzgerald, Treasurer of State  
Mr. Gregg Barcus, Executive Assistant to the Auditor of State  
Mr. Glen Brockett, Capitol Planning Commission  
Mr. Jack Walters, Director, Department of General Services  
Mr. Richard Hanson

Upon motion, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Chairperson Junkins announced that at this meeting the Committee would embark upon a tour of certain office facilities at the Capitol Complex and that after the tour a discussion of the space needs of the Legislature and various offices would be discussed.

Tours of the following office areas were provided by the following persons:

Senate offices, Marie Thayer  
Legislative Fiscal Bureau, Dennis Prouty  
Legislative Service Bureau, Serge Garrison  
House offices, Elizabeth Issacson  
Treasurer's offices, Michael Fitzgerald  
Auditor's offices, Craig Barcus  
Fourth floor Lucas Building, Jack Walters  
Second floor Lucas Building, Tim Faller  
Code Consultant's office, Phyllis Barry

The Committee reconvened in Room 22 at 11:10 a.m. Chairperson Junkins inquired of Mr. Walters as to a foreseeable site for the proposed legislative computer purchase. Mr. Walters replied that he is presently thinking of trying to squeeze the hardware into the basement of the Lucas Building. He added that this will necessitate someone or something moving out of that space. In response to a question by Chairperson Junkins, Mr. Walters added that the climate control would be the easiest in the Lucas Building.

Chairperson Junkins recognized Mr. Walters to present the report by the Department of General Services. Mr. Walters stated that his department's proposal is a long-range program of which the first step would be to add 30,000 to 38,000 square feet east of the Capitol in a two-story addition which would be below grade. This addition would be across the entire east front of the Capitol Building and would necessitate alteration of the Capitol steps. Mr. Walters deferred to Mr. Dick Hanson to further explain the proposal. Mr. Hanson stated that Phase II of the program would be

to extend the underground office facility eastward in a structure designed for parking and the construction and landscaping of a Capitol Mall on top of that facility. He stated that this would follow the 1977 plan for that area. Mr. Hanson stated that a space program needs to be developed to validate how space is presently being used and to identify the space requirements of the various agencies. He stated that the Legislative Council would have to approve \$18,000 for such a study. Upon the motion of Representative Connors, the Committee recommended such an expenditure to the Legislative Council.

Chairperson Junkins directed the Committee's attention to the disagreement with the Treasurer of State and Auditor of State over space requirements. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the tour demonstrated the crowded conditions and potential fire hazard in the legislative offices. He stated, however, that the acquisition of his office space by the Legislature would not solve the Legislature's problem. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the Treasurer of State should be in the Capitol Building for cash management purposes, for the speedy and convenient deposit and for investment of funds. Mr. Fitzgerald noted that the 1977 space agreement provided that no further demands were to be made upon the Treasurer of State's office and that this agreement is not being maintained. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that he believes it to be more important to have elected people in the Capitol Building than computer and research staff. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that he believes the Legislature's needs require more than his office space. Mr. Fitzgerald added that he believes the Department of General Services' study has potential. Mr. Barcus stated that he can sympathize with the lack of space in the legislative offices. He pointed out that the only people in the Auditor's office who are outside of the Capitol Building are field officers. He stated that in the Capitol Building they have the basic administrative unit and those units interact hourly with each other and that they have daily contact all year with members of the Treasurer's and Comptroller's offices. He stated that he does not believe that the Capitol should be shown as an empty building but as a building of business and added that moving is costly and disruptive. Representative Connors inquired if their offices could not be equally efficient elsewhere. Mr. Fitzgerald reiterated the need for efficient cash management and the prompt deposit of public funds. Representative Hoffman-Bright noted that most of the interaction was probably by telephone and not dependent upon physical proximity.

Chairperson Junkins stated that as the Legislature had looked at the Treasurer's and Auditor's office space it foresaw the centralization of its own staff and, in the short run, a need for committee rooms. Chairperson Junkins inquired as to the future growth of the Auditor's and Treasurer's departments. Chairperson Junkins noted that it would be politically easier for the Legislature to appropriate funds for a building for the Treasurer's and Auditor's offices rather than for itself. Mr. Barcus replied that they do not foresee much growth in personnel in the Auditor's

office. Chairperson Junkins stated that he understands the concerns of the Auditor and Treasurer of State to be firstly, that an elected official should be in the Capitol Building, secondly, there is necessary interaction between their offices and the Comptroller's offices, and thirdly, the preservation of their staff as a unit. Mr. Barcus stated that those are priorities but that they are not necessarily in that order. Mr. Barcus added that Auditor of State Johnson has a great sense of history. Mr. Barcus noted that one thing that struck him upon the tour was the fact that most of the desks for legislative members were empty. He stated that 3,000 square feet in the Auditor's office will not solve the Legislature's space problem. Representative Hoffman-Bright stated that the Legislature has no intention of scattering the staff of the Auditor or Treasurer. Mr. Barcus noted that there is not alternative space available in the Capitol Complex to move either office as a unit. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that he has not seen that the Legislature has quantified its needs for space. Chairperson Junkins stated that the present committee rooms are often inaccessible to the handicapped and lack seating for members of the public. He stated that if the Auditor and Treasurer moved out today, the Legislature's problem will still not be solved. Mr. Barcus inquired if the Legislature has drawn up plans as to specifically what would happen with their space if the Auditor of State moved from the Capitol. Chairperson Junkins replied that it had not. Mr. Barcus stated that he believes the Legislature should have a plan. Mr. Walters stated that each agency needs to look at what its space requirements will be and noted that there is an interest in having the Capitol Building restored and that that restoration will reduce the amount of space available. Mr. Barcus stated that he believes the General Assembly also needs to look at its basic operations. He inquired if the Legislature needs to have 150 secretaries on the floor of the House and Senate. He stated that the Legislature needs to have a long-range plan of what it needs. Chairperson Junkins stated that even though the staff of the Auditor and Treasurer of State were cramped, the conditions for the Legislature were even worse. He stated that the Legislature is not looking for offices for its members but to provide public access to the General Assembly. Representative Hoffman-Bright stated that the Legislature should develop a plan of what it would do with the space presently occupied by the Treasurer and Auditor of State. Chairperson Junkins stated that the next step will be to ask the Legislative Council to approve the study recommended earlier in the meeting. He stated that the Space Committee can rough out ideas for use of the space. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that their examination should look at every agency in the Capitol Building. Mr. Hanson noted that they will need to define the space needs of the agencies in the Capitol Building by September and that the Space Committee will have a challenge in August.

The Space Committee determined to meet next upon the call of the Chairperson and adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVID S. BAILEY  
Legal Counsel