

M I N U T E S

CAPITOL SPACE ALLOCATION COMMITTEE
OF THE IOWA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

July 16, 1986

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

The organizational meeting of the Capitol Space Allocation Committee of the Legislative Council was called to order at 2:30 p.m. by the Co-Chairperson, Senator Bill Hutchins, on Wednesday, July 16, 1986, in Committee Room 22 of the State House, Des Moines. Members present in addition to the Co-Chairperson were:

Speaker Donald D. Avenson, Co-Chairperson
Senator Calvin O. Hultman
Senator Joe J. Welsh
Representative John H. Connors
Representative Delwyn Stromer

Also present were:

Mr. Dennis Prouty, Director, Legislative Fiscal Bureau
Mr. Donovan Peeters, Director, Legislative Service Bureau
Mr. Burnette E. Koebernick, Deputy Director, Legislative Service Bureau

Also present were other legislative staff persons, representatives of the news media, and other interested persons.

Co-Chairperson Hutchins stated that the purpose of the meeting is organizational and providing an opportunity for the members of the Committee to tour the State House before discussions begin concerning the acquisition of additional space by the General Assembly. He noted that the constitutional officers involved have raised an issue of constitutionality regarding the separation of powers and pointed out that the Senate Legal Counsel has indicated that the issue may have no basis in law. Ms. Ver Heul has indicated that the interpretation placed upon references to the "seat of government" is not to a specific building or buildings but rather only to the city of Des Moines. This ruling is based upon interpretations by the Attorney General in three opinions issued between 1936 and 1968. Co-Chairperson Hutchins also emphasized that the opinion of Ms. Ver Heul is concurred in by the House Legal Counsel and the Attorney General. Co-Chairperson Hutchins pointed out that the legislative staff has already viewed the available space in the State House with some views as to how the space can be best utilized.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Co-Chairperson Hutchins asked whether July 24, 1986, would be an appropriate time for the next meeting of the Capitol Space Allocation Committee. There was general agreement regarding this date for the next meeting. (Following the conclusion of the meeting, it was agreed that the next meeting would be scheduled for July 30, 1986.)

TIMETABLE DISCUSSION

It was suggested that at the next meeting the affected constitutional officers and other interested persons be invited to discuss the issues involved. Co-Chairperson Avenson noted that the law specifically allows the Legislative Council to provide adequate space for conducting its business and the business of the General Assembly and emphasized the urgency for convenient and accessible space for the General Assembly and its staffs. Co-Chairperson Avenson also emphasized that with the reorganization of the executive branch of state government, it is appropriate the General Assembly do its reorganization simultaneously.

Senator Hultman suggested that the Department of General Services should be asked to attend the meetings of this Committee so that those persons are aware of how the General Assembly intends to proceed. Representative Stromer inquired as to whether the implementation plan with regard to space allocations will be adopted prior to the convening of the next session of the General Assembly. Co-Chairperson Avenson responded in the affirmative emphasizing that it should be accomplished as quickly as possible. Representative Stromer inquired as to whether the staff has discussed the costs of moving the safes that are presently located in the offices of the constitutional officers. Co-Chairperson Avenson responded that it is his understanding that the safes located in those offices are no longer used for the purposes for which they were intended and basically these safes have been converted to storage areas.

Representative Stromer noted that with the discussion among the leadership of a veto session several years ago, an issue was raised relating to how a bill would come back to the General Assembly and where these documents are stored. Co-Chairperson Avenson responded that this is not an issue and pointed out that some of the documents kept by the Secretary of State should be in the new Historical Building. In response to Senator Hultman's question, Co-Chairperson Hutchins noted that it is necessary for the Legislative Council to work with the Department of General Services to provide for economical moves of various agencies. Co-Chairperson Avenson also pointed out that the Legislative Council has authority to direct the moves under the law and that the costs of these moves could be financed under Section 2.12 of the Code.

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Representative Stromer emphasized that the General Assembly needs more rooms similar to Committee Room 22 which can accommodate many visitors and handle large committees. Co-Chairperson Avenson noted his agreement and pointed out that some of the rooms occupied at the present time by the constitutional officers would provide additional committee space in rooms the size of Committee Room 22. Representative Stromer also pointed out that the General Assembly should make the public aware of the present hindrances that impair the general operations of the General Assembly. Co-Chairperson Avenson noted his agreement and stated that it is necessary to acquire additional space in light of the health and fire hazards presently existing for members of the General Assembly and legislative staff in existing facilities.

Mr. Greg Nichols noted that the legislative staffs have toured the facilities in the State House and that each staff agency has provided a list of priorities for space. He emphasized that the general staff discussion indicated that there is an agreement that the General Assembly must determine its needs for meeting rooms first and the staff agreed that they would meet at a later date when necessary. He also pointed out that representatives of the Citizens' Aide/Ombudsman Office and the Computer Support Bureau did not participate and had indicated that those agencies had satisfactory space where they are presently located.

At this point, the members of the Committee agreed to tour the facilities available in the State House and visited the offices of the Auditor of State, the Secretary of State, the Treasurer of State, and the space in the basement currently occupied by the Department of Management.

At the conclusion of the tour, a short discussion period was held in the Legislative Dining Room and it was agreed that representatives of the Department of General Services be asked to attend the next meeting concerning present preliminary plans for relocation of the constitutional officers and the future plans for allocation of space within the old Historical Building and space presently available in the Lucas State Office Building. It was also recommended that the affected constitutional officers be invited to attend the next meeting of the Capitol Space Allocation Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting of the Capitol Space Allocation Committee of the Legislative Council was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNETTE E. KOEBRNICK
Deputy Director