

M I N U T E S

SERVICE COMMITTEE OF THE IOWA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

July 12, 1990

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

The Thursday, July 12, 1990, meeting of the Service Committee of the Iowa Legislative Council was called to order by Representative John Connors, Chairman, at 11:05 a.m., in the Speaker's Committee Room of the State House, Des Moines, Iowa. Members present in addition to Chairman Connors were:

Senator Bill Hutchins
Senator Joe Welsh
Representative Kay Chapman
Representative Harold Van Maanen

Also present were:

Ms. Diane Bolender, Director, Legislative Service Bureau
Mr. Dennis Prouty, Director, Legislative Fiscal Bureau
Mr. Sanford Scharf, Director, Computer Support Bureau
Mr. William Angrick, Citizens' Aide/Ombudsman
Other legislative staff members and interested persons

SENATOR JENSEN SEATED

Chairman Connors asked for the unanimous consent of the Committee members to seat Senator John Jensen, the newly elected Senate Minority Leader, as a member of the Service Committee. Unanimous consent was given and Senator Jensen was seated as a member of the Committee.

MINUTES APPROVED

Representative Chapman moved that the minutes of the June 14, 1990, meeting be approved as distributed to the Committee. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

CENTRAL LEGISLATIVE STAFF AGENCY BUDGET REVISIONS

Senator Hutchins informed the Committee that the Senate Rules and Administration Committee had met earlier in the morning and had made a decision to revise the Senate budget downward by two percent in light of the current state budget situation. He added that the Senate Committee had also decided to hold caucus staff vacancies open until September 15, 1990. He noted that the House of Representatives will also consider such a budget revision and moved that the Service Committee recommend to the Legislative Council that the heads of the four central legislative staff agencies be directed to propose and implement a two percent reduction in their respective budgets and to propose an additional two to three percent contingency list of budget reductions to be implemented if necessary. Senator Hutchins added that the proposed budget revisions should be completed within one week and should indicate the budget areas where reductions can be made. Representative Chapman seconded the motion.

Representative Van Maanen asked for clarification of the motion in terms of its inclusion or exclusion of the Senate and House budget revisions. Senator Hutchins commented that the Council only has authority over the central staffs and that the respective Rules and Administration Committees would have to act on budget revisions for their own chambers. He added that the Senate Rules and Administration Committee had already met and unanimously approved the revision for the Senate.

Responding to a question from Representative Van Maanen, Senator Hutchins stated that the estimated state budget shortfall of \$40,000,000 represents one percent of the state budget and that the two percent reduction being proposed for the legislative budget would set an example for all of state government. He estimated the legislative savings represented by the two percent reduction would be approximately \$350,000. Representative Van Maanen commented that he would have preferred notice prior to the Service Committee meeting regarding the proposed legislative budget revisions and that he is concerned about lack of minority party participation in the process. He stated that he would therefore pass on the motion before the Committee. Representative Chapman asked that Ms. Bolender, Director of the Legislative Service Bureau, provide copies of the central legislative staff agency budgets to the Legislative Council at its meeting. Ms. Bolender agreed to provide the copies.

The motion by Senator Hutchins was approved on a voice vote, with all members voting in favor of the motion with the exception of Representative Van Maanen, who passed.

PERSONNEL REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF CITIZENS' AIDE

Chairman Connors recognized Mr. William Angrick, Citizens' Aide, for presentation of his personnel report. A copy of the personnel report of the Office of Citizens' Aide is on file in the Legislative Service Bureau. Mr. Angrick reported that he had hired Ms. Ruth Cooperrider as Legal Counsel for the Office at Grade 31, Step 1, and that the Office would be paying some moving costs for Ms. Cooperrider. Ms. Cooperrider was present and Mr. Angrick introduced her to the Committee members. In response to a question from Representative Chapman, Mr. Angrick answered that estimated reimbursable moving costs would be approximately \$700.

LEGAL REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF CITIZENS' AIDE

Chairman Connors recognized Mr. Angrick for his legal report. A copy of the report is on file in the Legislative Service Bureau. Mr. Angrick reported that Mr. James Peterson, a former employee of the Office, has filed a motion to dismiss his judicial appeal of the Employment Appeal Board's denial of his claim for unemployment compensation. The outside attorney on the case, Mr. Mark Bennett, has therefore concluded his provision of legal services and has billed, at a very favorable hourly rate, the Office for \$725. Responding to a question from Chairman Connors, Mr. Angrick stated that the dismissal ends all current litigation with Mr. Peterson but that Mr. Peterson still would have approximately one year to institute other separate legal actions.

Mr. Angrick also explained that the Office has received a subpoena duces tecum relating to complaints against Mr. Tommy Gott, a deceased correctional officer, and that the Office is resisting the subpoena.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF CITIZENS' AIDE

Chairman Connors recognized Mr. Angrick for his administrative report. A copy of the report is on file in the Legislative Service Bureau. Mr. Angrick reported that he has requested the Department of General Services to approve the Office's use of a room currently underutilized by the Micrographics Section of Records Management of the Department of General Services. If the request is denied, he noted that it may be necessary to call upon the Service Committee for appropriate direction and assistance. Senator Welsh asked if the Department of General Services uses the room. Mr. Angrick answered that the Department does use the room, albeit infrequently, and that the staffs of his Office and of the Department of General Services housed in the building are similar

in size but that the Department occupies two-thirds of the building and the Citizens' Aide occupies only one-third of the building. He noted that he would be very happy if a delegate from the Service Committee would visit his Office and the building to assess the situation.

Representative Chapman moved to receive and file the personnel, legal, and administrative reports of the Office of Citizens' Aide and to recommend the payment of the legal fees relating to the unemployment compensation claim of Mr. James Peterson. The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

PERSONNEL REPORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMPUTER SUPPORT BUREAU

Chairman Connors recognized Mr. Sandy Scharf, Director of the Computer Support Bureau, for presentation of his Bureau's report. A copy of his report is on file in the Legislative Service Bureau. Mr. Scharf noted that his report only contains notice of a merit step increase for one employee, Mr. David Robinson, and does not require Council approval.

PERSONNEL REPORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE FISCAL BUREAU

Chairman Connors recognized Mr. Dennis Prouty, Director of the Legislative Fiscal Bureau, for presentation of his Bureau's report. A copy of his report is on file in the Legislative Service Bureau. Mr. Prouty noted that his report lists merit increases granted, vacant positions, and positions filled and does not require Council approval. He introduced Ms. Charlotte Moser, recently hired as Executive Secretary.

PERSONNEL REPORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE SERVICE BUREAU

Chairman Connors recognized Ms. Diane Bolender, Director of the Legislative Service Bureau, for presentation of her Bureau's report. A copy of her report is on file in the Legislative Service Bureau. Ms. Bolender noted that her report lists merit increases granted, vacant positions in the process of being filled, and resignations and does not require Council approval.

Chairman Connors asked whether there were any questions or comments on the three personnel reports. There were none. Representative Chapman moved that the Committee receive and file the reports. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

STATE BUDGET SITUATION

Chairman Connors asked if there was any additional business. Senator Welsh asked Mr. Prouty, Director of the Legislative Fiscal Bureau, what budget news would be forthcoming in the near future in light of the recent and extensive press coverage of the state budget situation. Mr. Prouty stated that the next information forthcoming would be the calculations regarding 1989-1990 fiscal year reversions. He noted that in the last few weeks he has been responding to the inquiries of the press with budget information which is of public record but that he cannot guarantee how that information is actually reported. Senator Welsh responded that he is concerned that legislators receive the budget information as soon as possible. Responding to Senator Hutchins' question, Mr. Prouty answered that the next meeting of the Revenue Estimating Conference would be September 12, 1990. That Conference earlier had estimated budget growth for the 1990-1991 fiscal year to be approximately 4.6 percent. The only comparative figures currently available are for the first 11 days of July, he said, and indicate a 33.7 percent growth, with corporate tax growth at 146.9 percent, personal tax growth at 21.4 percent, and sales tax growth at 31.6 percent. He cautioned the Committee that this comparison of 11 days from the current fiscal year to the last fiscal year does not provide an adequate base for policy decision making.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Connors called the Committee into executive session at approximately 11:30 a.m. and the Committee reconvened in open session at approximately 11:45 a.m.

APPOINTMENT OF CITIZENS' AIDE

Senator Hutchins reported that the Committee has received a letter from Mr. Angrick, the Citizens' Aide, informing the Committee that his term of office ends July 1990 and that he is seeking reappointment. Senator Hutchins moved to receive the report of the Citizens' Aide. Representative Van Maanen asked if action should be taken on the appointment. Senator Hutchins responded that by statute the Council must appoint the Citizens' Aide and report the appointment for approval to both the Senate and the House of Representatives. He added that he would prefer that the Service Committee action be to receive the report in order to give the Legislative Council time to consider the reappointment. Senator Welsh added that the statutory timetable would indicate that the appointment should have been considered last year. The motion to receive the report passed on a unanimous voice vote.

EXPUNGEMENT OF COMMENTS

Representative Van Maanen moved to expunge his comments and reactions to his comments made prior to the executive session. Representative Chapman seconded the motion and the motion was passed on a unanimous voice vote.

OTHER BUSINESS -- ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Connors asked whether there was any other business to come before the Committee. There was no other business and Senator Hutchins moved that the Committee adjourn. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote, and the Committee adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

RICHARD JOHNSON
Deputy Director