

M I N U T E S

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

June 18, 1986

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

The meeting of the Administration Committee of the Legislative Council was called to order at 10:45 a.m. by the Chairperson, Senator Donald V. Doyle, on Wednesday, June 18, 1986, in the Legislative Computer Room, Ground Floor, Lucas Building, Des Moines, Iowa. Representative Dale Cochran was present in addition to Chairperson Doyle.

Also present during the meeting were Sandy Scharf and Kay Evans of the Legislative Computer Support Bureau, Ralph Oltman and Kathy Miller of the Department of General Services, Howard Homrig of Capitol Security, Richard Johnson of the Legislative Service Bureau, and other interested persons.

PURPOSE OF MEETING

Chairperson Doyle stated that the purpose of the meeting is to discuss the ramifications of the lack of insurance coverage on the computer equipment located in the Legislative Computer Room. Mr. Sandy Scharf, the Director of the Legislative Computer Support Bureau, reported that although the probability of any damage to the computer equipment is slight, he felt the Administration Committee and the Legislative Council should be aware that should damage occur, the Bureau is responsible for all charges associated with the damage if not attributable to Sperry. Under the terms of the maintenance service agreement with Sperry, the Legislature is liable for all charges or assumes the cost of repairing the equipment or replacing parts thereof, when the damage is due to causes external to the equipment and not attributable to Sperry. Mr. Scharf reviewed the types of damages which could occur and the current protections of the system.

1. The Computer room is equipped with the latest halon fire protection system, which is very adequate.

2. Electrical surges are generally not a problem as the resultant damage is usually limited to damage to power packs; no damage would normally occur from a power loss. Mr. Ralph Oltman of the Department of General Services added that the Computer Room does have an electrical transformer dedicated solely to it and the

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building's handicapped elevator, but does not have a power monitor which is an expensive piece of equipment. Mr. Scharf mentioned that the only related electrical damage was sustained by the system near the Senate Journal Room due to faulty wiring. Sperry replaced the damaged equipment and wiring at no cost to the Bureau.

3. Heat damage is a remote possibility only since the Computer Room is cooled by two independent air conditioners, either of which can cool the Computer Room sufficiently to prevent damage.

4. Vandalism is also a remote possibility only since the Computer Room is always locked, the windows are grated, and the building is under 24-hour surveillance by Capitol Security, with rounds made every two hours. Mr. Howard Homrig of Capitol Security added that all Capitol Security staff have a specific manual applicable to the Legislative Computer Room to follow should any emergency or damage occur.

5. Water protection is more of a concern. The current system would activate an alarm if water significantly affected the temperature in the room. Mr. Scharf related that in December, 1984, a ceiling water pipe burst and flooded a small area of the room's floor, but no equipment damage was sustained. However, had the pipe flooded an area just one foot away, a disk drive valued at \$200,000 could have been severely damaged.

Water damage is not likely from the window wells and is no longer likely due to freezing and a backup of water from the building's vestibule.

Mr. Scharf mentioned that a floor water monitoring device might be installed as a safety precaution. Mr. Oltman stated that such a device might possibly be tied to the monitoring system in the Hoover Building.

6. Chairperson Doyle asked if the executive branch's computer system is protected in any way in which the legislative computer system is not. Ms. Kathy Miller, the risk manager for the Department of General Services, stated that the \$10 million of executive branch computer equipment is self-insured and has no major protections in place which are not also in place for the legislative computer system.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Representative Cochran asked if Mr. Scharf had any recommendations. Mr. Scharf recommended that the installation of a relatively inexpensive floor water monitoring device be considered. He stated that the Legislative Computer Support Bureau's budget might be sufficient to cover the acquisition of such a device.

Chairperson Doyle asked the representatives of the Department of General Services and Capitol Security if they had any

recommendations other than the possible installation of a floor water monitoring device. They did not.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Doyle adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

RICHARD JOHNSON
Legal Counsel