

MINUTES

of the

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

August 14, 1984

The fifteenth meeting of the 1983-1984 Iowa Legislative Council was called to order at 1:45 p.m. by the Council Chairperson, Speaker Donald D. Avenson, on Tuesday, August 14, 1984, in Committee Room 22 of the State House, Des Moines, Iowa. Members present were:

Speaker Donald D. Avenson, Chairperson
Senator Lowell L. Junkins, Vice Chairperson
Senator James Briles
Senator C. Joseph Coleman
Senator Donald V. Doyle
Senator Merlin Hulse
Senator Charles Miller
Senator Arthur A. Small, Jr.
Senator Dale Tieden
Representative Dale Cochran
Representative John H. Connors
Representative Tom Jochum
Representative Jean Lloyd-Jones
Representative Lester D. Menke
Representative Lowell Norland
Representative Delwyn Stromer
Representative Richard Welden

Also present were:

Mr. Serge H. Garrison, Director of the Legislative Service Bureau
Mr. Dennis Prouty, Director of the Legislative Fiscal Bureau
Mr. Bill Angrick, Citizens' Aide
Mr. Burnette E. Koebernick, Legislative Service Bureau
Ms. Diane Bolender, Legislative Service Bureau

Also present were other Iowa legislative staff persons, news media representatives, and other interested individuals.

Senator Coleman moved that the minutes of the July 10, 1984 Council meeting be approved as distributed to Council members, and the motion

was adopted. With regard to the Educational Leave Report, Representative Lloyd-Jones noted that some of the requests are for courses that the employees have already taken. She commented that she believes that the request must be filed before the employee takes the course. Chairperson Avenson commented that the requirement in the law is only a reporting requirement and although requests for educational leave should be filed in advance of the time the employee takes the course, this has not always been done in the past. Representative Lloyd-Jones moved that the Legislative Council receive the Educational Leave Report, and the motion was adopted.

Chairperson Avenson called for the Report of the Studies Committee, a copy of which is attached and by this reference made a part of these minutes. With regard to the subject matter to be considered by the Non-General Fund Tax Incentive Economic Development Study Committee, Senator Junkins commented that there are a number of kinds of non-general fund incentives such as selling off excess generating capacity, and the Studies Committee believes that a study should be conducted to explore the incentive possibilities. Senator Junkins moved that the Studies Committee Report be adopted by the Legislative Council and the motion carried.

Representative Connors commented that he has had a number of inquiries about whether a study on adoption laws will be approved. He noted that an organization known as Concerned United Birth Parents has been conducting meetings, and he believes the adoption laws need attention. Senator Junkins responded that the staff has already been instructed to include the topic as a part of the agenda for the September meeting of the Studies Committee.

Chairperson Avenson listed the following as public members of the Economic Development Study Committee: Mr. David Neil, Mr. Jim Wengert, Mr. Brice Ashman, Mr. John Scott, Ms. Suzie Darland, Mr. Gary Owens, and Dr. Neil Harl.

Representative Cochran asked why there is a nonlegislative member named as the chair of the Recreation-Tourism Study Committee. Chairperson Avenson commented that the joint leadership agreed that the chair should be Mr. Gerry Schnepf. He noted that substantial amounts of money from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation have been committed, as well as staff time and also Mr. Schnepf's expertise, to the study.

Senator Junkins moved the adoption of the Studies Committee Report, and the motion carried.

Representative Lloyd-Jones gave the report of the Service Committee, a copy of which is attached and by this reference made a part of these minutes. In response to a question, Mr. Garrison clarified that the request to employ an Assistant Public Information Officer is to fill a vacancy.

Representative Welden asked about #6 on the Service Committee report relating to the investigation of complaints relating to penal or correctional agencies. He suggested that if using more than one staff person for this investigation is contrary to the provisions of the Code of Iowa, the Section of the Code should probably be changed.

Representative Stromer asked about the proposal that Ms. Ruth Mosher's salary be temporarily increased because of additional assignments. He wondered whether there are any precedents for doing this. It was noted that under Merit Employment Department Rules, it is possible for an employee who incurs special assignments or extraordinary responsibilities to receive higher pay on a temporary basis. Representative Cochran expressed concern that the request sets a precedent for the future. Representative Lloyd-Jones commented that the request of Mr. Angrick reflects a change in philosophy about the operation of the Office of Citizens' Aide that has been evolving during the past year. She noted that several staff persons will be assigned to corrections duties, and one of the assignments is a temporary one which involves additional responsibilities and travel.

Representative Cochran commented that temporarily increasing pay has not been the usual practice for employment within the legislative branch of government, and he believes it may be a precedent that the Legislative Council should not approve. Representative Connors agreed and stated that the House Administration Committee has granted temporary pay increases to some employees for additional responsibilities. Representative Stromer expressed fears that as employees of a caucus staff leave and the remaining employees are asked to assume additional responsibilities, the remaining employees may request additional salaries on a temporary basis. Representative Menke commented that he believes that each such occurrence must be considered by the Legislative Council on an individual basis. Representative Lloyd-Jones moved the adoption of the Service Committee Report, and the motion carried.

Representative Connors read the report of the Administration Committee, a copy of which is attached and by this reference made a part of these minutes. Representative Welden asked why it is necessary for the Public Information Officer's office to be moved. Representative Connors responded that the present location in one portion of the Legislative Dining Room is not visible to the public. He also noted that an Appropriations Subcommittee meets in the other area of the Legislative Dining Room which makes it difficult for the Public Information Officer and his staff to concentrate on their work. He also noted that the telephone ringing and people walking in and out are disruptive to the Appropriations Subcommittee meeting. Representative Connors moved the adoption of the Administration Committee Report, and the motion carried with Representative Welden voting in the negative. Chairperson Avenson appointed Representative Connors and Representative

Menke to consult with the Governor's office about the possibility of using space presently occupied by the Executive Council Secretary.

Ms. Bolender requested approval for two additional meeting days for the Excellence in Education Task Force to complete its assignment. Senator Coleman moved that the request be approved, and the motion was adopted.

Chairperson Avenson commented that the testing process for the legislative computer system will take place through August 29th. He set the next Council meeting for Tuesday, September 11th.

The Legislative Council adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

SERGE H. GARRISON
Director, Legislative Service Bureau

DIANE BOLENDER
Senior Research Analyst