

M I N U T E S

SPACE COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

June 28, 1983

The first meeting of the Space Committee of the Legislative Council was called to order by the Chairperson, Senator Lowell Junkins, at 9:10 a.m., Tuesday, June 28, 1983 in Senate Room 22, State House, Des Moines, Iowa. Members of the Committee present in addition to Senator Junkins were:

Senator Calvin O. Hultman
Representative John Connors
Representative Betty Hoffmann-Bright

Other persons present included legislative staff and other interested persons.

During his introductory remarks, Senator Junkins stated that the purpose of the meeting is to identify legislative space needs and to develop short-term and long-term solutions to these needs. He added that identified space needs include inadequate meeting rooms for the General Assembly, inadequate facilities for legislative staff and support equipment, and future needs of the General Assembly including space for a computer and other equipment. Concerning inadequate meeting rooms, Senator Junkins stated that except for Rooms 116 and 118, the size of the meeting rooms is not adequate to accommodate legislators, staff, and the general public. In addition, he stated there are public access difficulties with the location of rooms behind the House and Senate Chambers, access problems for handicapped persons, fire safety hazards, and accoustical/traffic flow problems.

Concerning space problems for the Legislative Fiscal Bureau, Mr. Prouty stated that the current Fiscal Bureau staff is housed in three separate locations. He stated that there are six staff members on the second floor of the Lucas State Office Building, two staff members in one of the rooms in the legislative dining area, and the remaining staff on the second floor of the State House. Mr. Prouty stated that he has a total of sixteen staff members and a total office space of 2100 square feet. He added that based on the open space average of 150 square feet for each staff person utilized as a guideline by the Department of General Services of 150 square feet, the Legislative Fiscal Bureau should have at least 2700 square feet of space for its sixteen employees. In reply to a question by Senator Hultman, Mr. Prouty stated that the largest amount of space needed for the computer equipment would be 800 square feet. Concerning the need for space for computer installation, Mr. Garrison distributed a letter from Mr. Jack Walters, Director of the Department of General Services, relating to his recommendation for the location of the new legislative computer equipment in the Lucas Building. A copy of Mr. Walter's

letter is attached to and by this reference, made a part of these minutes. Senator Hultman commented that the Committee should tour the various legislative staff areas to gain a first-hand knowledge of current space being utilized by the legislative agencies.

Mr. Garrison stated that the most critical need for the Legislative Service Bureau is office space for the Public Information Office. He stated that the current office space in a room with the duplication equipment is very noisy and that there is a lack of public access. He also noted that the Legislative Service Bureau has 1,887 square feet of office space and that, by the 150 feet square foot standard, the square footage should be 4,650. In reply to a question by Representative Hoffmann-Bright, Mr. Garrison stated that the Public Information Office will have a full-time equivalent of two and one-half persons. Another problem concerns the office space of the Code Consultant located in the Lucas Building. It appears that asbestos in the ceiling may be affecting persons working in that area.

Mr. Joseph O'Hern, Chief Clerk, stated that the space problems for the House of Representatives are well known. He stated that there is barely adequate space in Committee Room 1; the Speaker's Conference Room is much too small for a committee meeting; and the Fiscal Director's Conference Room is both small and inaccessible. He added that the Republican caucus staff have seven staff members in an office area of approximately 300 square feet and the Democratic caucus staff have nine staff members in an office area of approximately 400 square feet.

Ms. Marie Thayer, Secretary of the Senate, stated that there is a problem in Senate Room 322 which is not only small but is very noisy. She also stated that there are critical space problems with regard to the Senate Journal staff. Mr. Tim Waddell, Administrative Assistant to the Leader, stated that the heat and humidity in the rotunda area of the Capitol during the spring and summer cause equipment failures for the legislative copy center. Mr. O'Hern also commented that two "hot spots" as far as air conditioning is concerned remain in the State House. He added that the House Journal Room is one area and the Legislative Service Bureau computer terminal area is the other.

Having identified the legislative space problems, Chairperson Junkins stated that the Committee should proceed to develop short-term and long-term solutions to these problems. He added that constructing a legislative building is not politically feasible, therefore other solutions must be found to the space problem. Representative Hoffmann-Bright requested that the Department of General Services provide a list of rental property and costs currently being utilized by state agencies. Chairperson Junkins stated that a lease-purchase arrangement should be investigated as an alternative to renting office space. Senator Hultman also stated that the Department of General Services should be requested to list current space which is available in the Capitol Complex. He also suggested that the Department should be requested to update

the 1977 Capitol Space Study and an estimate of costs necessary for the update should be presented to the Legislative Council. Mr. Jerry D. Gamble, Financial Officer, Department of General Services, offered, on behalf of Mr. Jack Walters, the assistance of the Department in outlining short-range and long-range solutions to the space problems.

After further discussion, Senator Hultman moved that the Department of General Services be requested to provide a list of space available at the State Capitol Complex as input for developing a short-range solution to the space problem and that the Department proceed to develop a study of cost estimates to update the 1977 Capitol Space Study and of the heating and ventilation study which was conducted in 1976. Senator Hultman added that the long-range solutions aspects should include consideration of a lease-purchase arrangement for additional space as well as a phase-in approach toward the development of the Capitol Complex. The motion was adopted.

Concerning the relocation of the staff of the Treasurer of State and the Auditor of State, Representative Hoffmann-Bright questioned whether the general public really would like to see these constitutional officers moved from the State House. Chairperson Junkins commented that retaining space for the Auditor of State and the Treasurer of State and their personal staff may be an alternative, but he does not believe that the current office space in the State House is appropriate for the general operation of those offices. Chairperson Junkins added that he doubts seriously that the Attorney General and other staff who have been relocated to other buildings would want to return to the State House even if requested. Chairperson Junkins stated that the Committee should open communication with the Auditor of State and the Treasurer of State to discuss relocation and review space available within the Capitol Complex.

After further discussion, Senator Hultman moved that the Auditor of State and the Treasurer of State be invited to attend the next meeting of the Space Committee to discuss the space needs and space allocation of the Capitol Complex. The motion was carried.

After further discussion, Chairperson Junkins requested that Mr. Waddell set up a walking tour of the legislative agency offices and the space available in the Capitol Complex for the Committee prior to its next meeting. Senator Hultman stated that sufficient time should be devoted to the tour so that the Committee can evaluate the various space options. Chairperson Junkins also requested that the Auditor of State, the Treasurer of State, and the Governor or their representatives be invited to join the tour of the legislative office space and the space available in the Capitol Complex.

After further discussion, the Committee agreed to meet at a date selected by Chairperson Junkins.

There being no further business before the Committee, the Committee adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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