

MINUTES
IOWA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

July 21, 1992

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

The thirteenth meeting of the 1991-1992 Legislative Council was called to order by the Chairperson, Speaker Bob Arnould, at 1:15 p.m., Thursday, July 21, 1992 in Senate Room 22, State House, Des Moines, Iowa. Members present in addition to Chairperson Arnould were:

Senator Leonard Boswell
Senator Donald V. Doyle
Senator Michael Gronstal
Senator Wally E. Horn
Senator Emil Husak
Senator John Jensen
Senator Jim Lind
Senator Larry Murphy
Senator Jack Rife
Senator Maggie Tinsman
Senator Dale Tieden
Representative Janet Adams
Representative Clifford O. Branstad
Representative Kay Chapman
Representative Roger Halvorson
Representative William H. Harbor
Representative Thomas J. Jochum
Representative Mary Lundby
Representative Michael K. Peterson
Representative Harold Van Maanen

Also present at the meeting were Ms. Diane Bolender, Director, Legislative Service Bureau; Mr. Richard Johnson, Deputy Director, Legislative Service Bureau; Mr. Dennis Prouty, Director, Legislative Fiscal Bureau; Mr. Tim Faller, Deputy Director, Legislative Fiscal Bureau; Mr. William Angrick, Citizens' Aide/Ombudsman; Mr. Sandy Scharf, Director, Computer Support Bureau; Mr. Jack Dwyer, Secretary of the Senate; Mr. Joseph O'Hern, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives; other legislative staff members; representatives of the news media; and other interested persons.

ROLL CALL AND MINUTES

Chairperson Arnould stated that the roll was taken as the members of the Council arrived and that no formal roll call was necessary. He then introduced Senator Larry Murphy as the newest member of the Council and noted that this is Senator Murphy's first Legislative Council meeting. The other members of the Council congratulated Senator Murphy on his appointment and welcomed him as a member. Chairperson Arnould also asked for unanimous consent for approval of the minutes of the last meeting. There were no objections and the minutes were adopted.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson Arnould noted that next item of business was the election of the new Vice Chairperson of the Council and asked whether there were any nominations for the position. Senator Boswell nominated Senator Wally Horn as Iowa Legislative Council Vice Chairperson. Chairperson Arnould asked if there was any other nomination or discussion on the nomination. There were no other nominations or motions except for a request for a short-form vote on the nomination. Chairperson Arnould called for a vote and Senator Horn was approved on a voice vote by the Council as the new Vice Chairperson. The Council members then congratulated Vice Chairperson Horn and welcomed him as the new Vice Chairperson.

REPORT OF THE SERVICE COMMITTEE

Chairperson Arnould recognized Senator Michael Gronstal, Chairperson of the Service Committee, for presentation of the report of the Service Committee to the Legislative Council. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes. Senator Gronstal stated that the Service Committee meeting had included the receipt of routine personnel reports as well as a report on the implementation of the new position classification system. He reminded Council members that the effect of the new system is to make the legislative employment system consistent with the employment system used in the executive branch of state government. He also noted that the new cost-of-living salary increases for legislative employees took effect beginning with the pay period commencing July 3, 1992. Senator Husak moved that the report be approved. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

REPORT OF THE FISCAL COMMITTEE

Chairperson Arnould recognized Senator Leonard Boswell, Chairperson of the Fiscal Committee, for presentation of the report of the Fiscal Committee to the

Legislative Council. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes. Senator Boswell stated that the Fiscal Committee discussed the continuing problem of unpaid court fines and fees and that, despite the passage of HF 697 and HF 2455, it appears that more work may need to be done in this area. He indicated that the Committee also received an update on the purchasing arrangements by the Office of the Secretary of State for an optical disk scanner. Representative Halvorson noted that in addition to the update by the Secretary of State, the Committee received information from the Legislative Fiscal Bureau relating to the use of funds appropriated for the scanner that would appear to indicate that the Secretary of State is utilizing some of the scanner moneys for purposes of offsetting the effects of the across-the-board cuts. He noted also that when the Department of Human Services took a similar action in previous years, the Committee and Committee members had been quite concerned. Representative Halvorson then suggested that the Council request from the Office of Secretary of State a summary of expenditures that indicates where the Office is spending the difference between the amount actually paid for the scanner and the amount appropriated for purposes of purchasing the scanner. Representative Jochum and Senator Boswell both indicated that the Fiscal Bureau explanation that accompanied the appropriation in the NOBA version of SF 529 reflected the intent that \$500,000 of the line item was to be spent for the optical disc scanner and other things necessary for full automation of the office.

Representative Van Maanen asked whether the \$500,000 appropriation was for the purchase or lease-purchase of an optical disc scanner, and how the appropriation of the additional funds related to the actions taken by the General Assembly during the recent special session. Representative Halvorson indicated that it was his understanding, based on the discussions that took place during the conference committee on the bill, that the money was for a lease-purchase. Senator Gronstal stated that the appropriation of the additional funds was inconsistent with the action that was taken during the recent special session, but noted that the lease obligation would still remain whether or not funds were specifically appropriated for the purchase. Senator Gronstal also reminded the Council members that the special session reductions relating to purchase of equipment were not to apply to agencies that had already been subjected to the 5 percent reduction.

Representative Halvorson said that the total purchase price for the optical disc scanner is \$1.5 million dollars, and that the reduction in the amount that is spent by the Secretary of State on the scanner during the current fiscal year will only have the effect of requiring an additional year's appropriation of funds for the scanner. He then moved that the Office of Secretary of State provide information as how the \$150,000 that will not be spent on the scanner will be expended.

Representative Jochum stated his opposition to the motion and noted that the actual additional appropriation that was included in the Office of Secretary of State's general appropriation line item amounted to only about \$400,000, not \$500,000.

Senator Gronstal also expressed opposition to the motion on the grounds that there was no specific line item detailing the amount that was to be spent on the optical disc scanner and the amount that was supposed to be spent on office automation. Representative Halvorson, Representative Van Maanen, Senator Rife, and Senator Gronstal discussed the extent and nature of the information that was being requested in Representative Halvorson's motion.

Senator Husak then made a substitute motion requesting that the Office of the Secretary of State provide a report to the Fiscal Committee that gives information on how all of the money that was appropriated to the Office will be spent. Chairperson Arnould asked if there was any discussion on the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Chairperson Arnould, seeing no further discussion, called for a vote on the report of the Fiscal Committee. The report was approved on a unanimous voice vote.

REPORT OF THE STUDIES COMMITTEE

Chairperson Arnould recognized Vice Chairperson Horn, Chairperson of the Studies Committee, for presentation of the report of the Studies Committee. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes. Vice Chairperson Horn noted that the first item on the Studies Committee report is the approval of the 1992 Interim Studies and the assignments to the Legislative Fiscal Committee. He added the interim studies include three carry-over studies from last year, seven new studies, and four studies that are to be assigned to the Legislative Fiscal Committee.

Representative Van Maanen, remarking that item 2 of the Studies Committee report includes up to approximately \$118,000 for the Tax Fairness and Equity Study Committee, asked whether that is new money or whether that amount is to be taken from funds that had already been allotted to that Committee. Vice Chairperson Horn stated that the \$118,000 is new money and that it is to be expended for phase II of the study. Representative Van Maanen asked what the cost of phase I of the study was, to which Chairperson Arnould responded that approximately \$200,000 was spent for phase I of the study, which included payment for the cost of the tax model.

Senator Lind asked what the practical effect of item 3 would be on interim studies this year. Representative Arnould responded that the Committee would use the same selection process that had always been used.

Senator Gronstal called for a short-form vote on the Studies Committee report. The report was then adopted on a unanimous voice vote.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Chairperson Arnould recognized Representative Peterson, Chairperson of the Administration Committee, for presentation of a report from the Administration Committee. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes. Representative Peterson stated that the Administration Committee had discussed the sale of the electronic Code database and that the Committee recommends that the Council direct the Legislative Service Bureau to continue the negotiations for the sale of that database. Representative Chapman asked whether the association that is interested in purchasing the database could duplicate the CD ROM and sell that to its membership, to which Representative Peterson responded in the affirmative.

There was no further discussion of the Administration Committee report and it was adopted by a unanimous voice vote.

INTERSTATE COOPERATION COMMISSION REPORT

Chairperson Arnould recognized Ms. Diane Bolender, Director of the Legislative Service Bureau, for an update on the progress of the Interstate Cooperation Commission. Ms. Bolender noted that the Commission has been quite successful in raising funds to support the upcoming Council of State Governments' annual meeting that will be held in Des Moines this December. She described some of the various events that will be held during the annual meeting, including various exhibits, speakers, and the Iowa Mini State Fair. She concluded by noting that a copy of the proposed program and format is available for viewing in the Legislative Service Bureau, if any of the members are interested in more of the particulars of the program plans.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

As an additional item of Council business, Chairperson Arnould informed the Council members that, as has been the case with implementation of cost-of-living and merit pay increases, the legislative leadership has directed that the 5 percent budget cut that is being implemented in the executive branch of state government will also be implemented in the agencies of the legislative branch.

Representative Lundby expressed concern, as she has on previous occasions, over the effect that budget reductions within the legislative branch will have on the general public's ability to communicate and have access to state government through the Citizens' Aide/Ombudsman's office.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to come before the Council and the Council adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Leslie E. Workman
Legal Counsel

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